STARS STRIPES.



Boston basking in sports teams' greatness

Leaks an issue as Michael Jackson trial set to begin

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Volume 63, No. 287

Iraqi woman

casts one of

the first

Sunday in

Ramadi.

where

security

concerns

kept vote

and political infighting

turnout lower than in other parts of Irag.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2005

Millions vote despite unrest



■ 44 dead in attacks on Iraqi polls

■ Bush calls election a success



Below: Spc Michael Johnson talks to an Iraqi boy as soldiers A. 2nd Battalion 14th Infantry Regiment, patrol neighborhood during the elections. The nhoto was taker through the cracked windshield of Johnson's Humvee damaged that mortar landed nearby

After driving was prohibited, thousands of Iraqis walk to Al Alamara to vote. Election Day violence included some deadly suicide bombings and mortar strikes by insurgents.

- Some Sunnis stay away
- Turnout varies across nation

Coverage begins on Page 5



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ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Big Dig project: The Massachusetts water authority is investigating wheth er the Big Dig highway project violated its permit by pumping millions of gallons of water into the regional sewer sys-

The \$14.6 billion Big Dig project has a per-mit from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to pump out 36,000 gallons of water per month from tunnels under Boston. But MWRA records obtained by The Boston Globe show the project has been pumping out a monthly average of 2.2 million gallons.

Suspect in custody: U.S. authorities took custody Saturday of a man who was arrested 41/2 years ago in Mexico and accused of killing an undercover federal drug agent, the Drug Enforcement Administration said

Augustin Vasquez-Mendoza is facing a murder charge in Maricopa County, Ariz., for the 1994 slaying of DEA agent Richard

Vasquez Mendoza was arrested in central Mexico in July 2000, and the United States had been seeking his extradition ever since

Vasquez-Mendoza was tried on a drug trafficking charge in Mexico, DEA administrator Karen Tandy said. That case concluded late Friday and he was sentenced to time served, Tandy said. "That provided the avenue to extradite him to the United States," she said

U.S. authorities, who paid \$2.2 million as a reward for his capture, had previously agreed to waive the death penalty and a sen tence of life in prison without parole as terms of his extradition. Tandy said

Illness on cruise ship: About 230 people aboard a cruise ship fell ill with a gastrointestinal illness while on a Caribbean

voyage, forcing the trip to end early. About 200 of the 1,220 passengers aboard the Holland America ship Veendam got sick on the voyage, which ended Friday evening

in Tampa, about 13 hours early.

About 30 of the ship's 572 crewmembers also became sick.

Sick passengers were quarantined to their rooms while crewmembers scrubbed banisters, elevator knobs and other areas to eliminate the virus, which spreads easily in close quarters.

Bloodshed in Congo: Militiamen carrying guns and machetes killed 16 people last week and kidnapped at least 34 young girls in a series of attacks on a remote area of eastern Congo, the United Nations said.

Two platoons of U.N. peacekeepers ar rived in the remote area by helicopter early Saturday to protect the population from further violence, U.N. spokesman Christophe Boulierarch said by telephone from Bunia capital of Ituri province

U.S. consulate reopens: The U.S. consulate in the Red Sea port city of Jiddah has reopened, seven weeks after an attack on its premises by Islamic militants left nine peo ple dead, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Em-bassy in Riyadh said Sunday.

Carol Kalin said the consulate reopened Saturday and was providing full services in the western region of Saudi Arabia.

Islamic militants attacked the consulate



General strike: Police detain a wo tester Sunday during the second day of a three-day general strike called by the main opposition Awami League in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Schools and shops were shut down and transportation was disrupted after the killing of five members in a grenade attack at a rally Thursday. The government denied any involvement, condemned the blast and ordered an investigation. Investigators from Interpol were to arrive Monday. Officials also asked the United States for assistance.

Dec. 6 and held civilians at gunpoint, Security forces stormed the compound three hours later, and five foreign consulate em

ployees and four attackers were killed. The consulate halted most activities after the attack, with the embassy in Riyadh assuming some of those responsibilities.

Oil prices stay high: OPEC warned Sunday that oil prices, already hovering near \$50 a barrel, would remain high through the spring, even as the cartel decided to keep its production ceiling at 27 million barrels a day

The decision, reached at a meeting of the 11-nation group in the Austrian capital of Vienna. offers little solace for consumers worried about the price of heating oil this win-

Darfur asks for more troops: Rebels in Sudan's western Darfur region called Sunday for the African Union to send more troops to Darfur and give the soldiers the mandate to stop government troops and allied militia from attacking civilians.

The Sudanese government is sending more troops and military hardware to Darfur, continues arming and recruiting Arab militia, known as Janjaweed, and has built airstrips in remote parts of the region to prepare for new offensives against insurgents. said Adam Ali Shogar, a spokesman for the Sudan Liberation Movement, one Darfur's two main rebel groups

Austrian government crisis: Pushing Aus-

tria's government to the brink of collapse, the right-wing Freedom Party on Sunday an-grily accused its coalition partner of breaking up the alliance by pushing through reforms aimed at moving the country toward

an all-volunteer army.

Uwe Scheuch, the Freedom Party's general secretary, issued a statement savaging the center-right People's Party leadership for being "intoxicated by power" and con-tending the party "busted" the coalition with its "single-handed" reform attempts. But Maria Rauch-Kallat, the nation's

health minister and a senior People's Party member, played down the threat of a col-lapse Sunday, telling Austrian radio: "I believe this government will hold.

oas visits Russia: Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas was due in Moscow on Sunday for an official visit as part of his first foreign trip since his election earlier this

Abhas was scheduled to meet Monday with President Vladimir Putin, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexy II. He leaves Russia Tuesday morning.

War on terrorism

Hunt for Taliban chief: Police have gleaned "useful" information from suspected members of Afghanistan's Taliban militia who were arrested in southwestern Pakistani and are being interrogated for clues about Taliban chief Mullah Mohammed Omar, an official said Sunday.

Acting on a tip, police raided several homes in Quetta late Thursday and cap-tured as many as 23 Afghan nationals on susof links with the Taliban and al-Oaida

Seventeen of the arrested men were allegedly members of the Taliban militia. A U.S.-led coalition ousted the Taliban from power in Afghanistan in late 2001 for harboring terrorists

British detainees released: Britain made no promises to the United States to secure the release of four Britons from U.S. military detention at Guantanamo Bay, the gov-ernment's chief legal officer said Sunday.

The comments by Lord Falconer, the lord chancellor, appeared to contradict those of another minister, who said Britain had agreed a "security package" with the United States over the men's release.

Four British detainees who spent up to three years in U.S. custody returned to Britain on Tuesday. British police questioned them briefly and released them without charge.

Military

AF cadet to stand trial: An Air Force Academy senior cadet will stand trial for allegedly raping another cadet during a scuba diving trip.

Lt. Gen. John Rosa, the academy superin-

tendent, ordered the court-martial of senior Cadet Benjamin Kuster after reviewing evidence from November's Article 32 proceeding, the equivalent of a preliminary hearing. An academy spokesman announced the court-martial on Friday.

A cadet testified that she awoke during

the diving club's trip to New Mexico last year to find a man she believed was Kuster sexually assaulting her. He immediately stopped when she spoke to him, she said.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press



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Marina Aldrich cleans the counter Wednesday at what will be Charlie's Steakery when the base exchange reopens at RAF Lakenheath,

Base exchange at RAF Lakenheath to reopen Feb. 25

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Strings

RAF LAKENHEATH, England - The RAF Lakenheath base exchange will open at the end of February after 14 months and \$7.8 million of renovations.

Rob Baker, the store manager, said the store will reopen on Feb. 25. A couple vendors in the expanded food court may need an

additional week or two to open. "It was due," Baker said of the renovation that began in November 2003.

The store now has new wiring and improved lighting, along with new heating and air conditioning units. The vendor areas have been remodeled, and new bathrooms have been installed

The most obvious change will be to the food court, which will now seat 208 people, a 25 percent increase. Additionally, Charlie's Steakery, which serves grilled made-to-order submarine sandwiches, has been added, along with Cinnabon. Anthony's Pizza, Frank's Franks and Baskin-Robbins will return

The store will have the same amount of shopping space, Baker said, but the clothing section will be expanded.

Since the exchange closed for the renovation, shoppers have had to travel to RAF Feltwell, about 10 miles down a narrow country road that weaves through a few villages

The exchange was set up in a

hangar, which, Baker pointed out, "was not designed for retail.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service made a decision. Baker said, to close the main store completely and move tempo-rarily to RAF Feltwell rather than close the main store in sections while workers made the improvements

Bruce Creed, the site manager for Mansell Construction of Swaffham, England, the main contractor, said the right decision was

"It was ultimately the best way of doing it," Creed said

He agreed with Baker that doing the project in phases would have doubled the amount of time required to complete it.

Once that decision was made, Baker said, the command made the hangar at RAF Feltwell available and \$9 million worth of mer-

chandise was moved. "It definitely was an inconvenience to our customers," he said "You couldn't pop over for lunch and be back at work."

Sales have been off about 7 per cent, he said, but the store still did \$4.5 million worth of business during the Christmas shopping

The Lakenheath exchange did \$35 million in sales last year, put-ting it behind those at Ramstein Air Base, Würzburg and Vogelweh in Germany. Baker said he expects to increase the sales figure to \$41 million for 2005

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Contest postponed

RAF MILDENHALL, England - The U.S. Air Forces in Europe power lifting championships has been postponed until further notice due to lack of competitor registration

The competition was to be held Saturday at RAF Mildenhall

Information regarding registration will be made available once a new date for the competition has been set

Europe materiel brigade to go to Iraq

A newly formed logistics brigade is sending a team to Iraq to better supply troops there.

Army Materiel Command Field Support Brigade-Europe formed in November precisely for "expeditionary" missions — going directly into the war zone and getting to work.

In Europe, the command spent recent days issuing helmets and other gear to soldiers en route to Afghanistan. Its mission in Iraq is much broader, spokesman Chuck Fick said, and includes providing the gear soldiers wear, shoot, drive or even eat.

"What's going forward is what the Army calls an operations command post," Fick said. "At this moment, this is a party that will assess the requirements on the ground, and this is in keeping with the modular nature of the Army now. We will then scale

and tailor the presence based on the needs of the

A team of about 10 people from the Seckenheim. Germany-based unit will arrive in the country first and decide who or what should follow. The brigade

numbers about 1,600. "Although many members of our command have deployed individually, this is the first time we are going as a unit," said Tommy Lane, the brigade's civilian deputy, in a press release

The brigade's commander said field missions are the reason AMC-Forward and Combat Equipment Group-Europe recently merged.

"This deployment is exactly why the unit was formed on Nov. 18, 2004," said Col. Max Lobeto, brigade commander. "Ours is the first such brigade in Army Materiel Command and is designed to match up with the expeditionary Army.

Derby day at Feltwell







Top: Brian Wolfe, left, and Josh Gunther salute during the Pledge of Allegiance on Saturday at the Pinewood Derby, held by Pack 404 of the Cub Scouts at RAF Feltwell, England. Races are being held around Europe by Cub Scout troops Above: Cub Scouts watch as cars race toward the finish line. Right: Zack Peterson, foreground right, watches

closely as cars cross the finish

line Saturday in the derby.

PHOTOS BY RON JENSEN



Former Army rigger jumps back into service

Retired soldier serves as liaison for SETAF at Aviano Air Base

BY KENT HARRIS Stars and Strines

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy -Martin Fano doesn't jump from airplanes anymore.

But after spending two decades as an Army rigger, he hasn't got-ten very far away from military aircraft

In fact, as F-16s noisily lift off the runway, his office near the flight line is probably a bit too close - and loud - for most peo-

Not that he's complaining "This is the best job I've ever had," he says of his position,

which he simplifies as a point of contact between the Army and Air Force in northern Italy.

As an American civilian working for the Army on an Air Force base, Fano is a bit of an oddity. He has dual citizenship, but his British accent stands out. He's a graduate from the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst in England and endured a tour of duty in Northern Ireland in 1979. During stints with the British and American forces, he's been an officer, an enlisted soldier and a warrant officer

"He brings a lot of experience in our air operations," said Lt. Col. Angela Haynes, chief of plans and operations for the 22nd Area Support Group's directorate



Martin Fano, left, a civilian who acts as the liaison at Aviano Air Base for the Southern European Task Force (Airborne), talks with Maj. Andrew Rohling, executive officer of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, before a jump near Aviano last week.

of logistics. "He knows how to put a plan into action

That's probably a comforting thought to the thousands of paratroopers who will soon be heading to Afghanistan by flying out of Aviano.

"He is the lynch pin for the airborne portion of this deploy-

ment," Haynes said. Fano has had that role before He was in charge of getting the heavy equipment aboard for the 173rd Airborne Brigade's entry into Iraq in 2003.

At the time, Fano was still in the Army and the chief rigger stationed at Aviano. An amateur photographer, he also documented the movement on film

He retired as a chief warrant officer 3 in late 2003, capping a 21-year career in the Army. He became a warrant officer in 1994 after advancing to the rank of sereant first class. He had joined the U.S. Army in 1982 as a para-chute rigger, not long after leav-

ing the British army.
Fano, who says he had wanted to become an American citizen, joined the enlisted ranks even though he was an officer in the British forces and a graduate of Sandhurst, the British equivalent of West Point.

In about five years with the British forces, he served in Germany as well as Northern Ireland, where he led an armored car platoon.

"Basically, escorting infantry guys around," he said. No one in his platoon was killed, but not for a lack of effort by those who wanted British forces out

Attacks on the convoys came "on a daily basis," he said. "Small arms fire, anything they could throw at you basically

He spent most of his time in the U.S. Army with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, with stints in South Korea, Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War and a final tour in Italy.

Fano says his upbringing made military service seem like a natural fit. His father was a salesman for DuPont and the family lived





Fano is the chief of departure for the airfield

group at Aviano Air Base, Italy, for the 22nd Area Support Group's directorate of logistics.

Age: 48

Family: Wife, Josephine Hometown: Harrogate, England

Military service: Twenty-one years as a warrant officer or enlisted member in the U.S. Army following five years in the British army.

Stars and Strines

in a handful of countries in south and central America. He learned Portuguese - which he's since lost - and Spanish. He started attending boarding schools at the age of 8.

'So I've always been used to sort of a regimented lifestyle," he says. "I saw a lot of chaos in the civilian life and I didn't like it.

So how's life out of the military? 'Now I'm a civilian," he says. But I still work out every day. I have a uniform and still feel like a warrant officer.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harrisk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Some Europe GIs have undergone second post-combat mental exams

BY CHARLIE COON Stars and Stripes

While the Department of Defense will soon start requiring troops to undergo a series of men tal health evaluations for post traumatic stress — both immediately upon returning from Iraq or Afghanistan and up to six months later — many soldiers in Europe have already undergone the eval-

The Department of Defense announced the new program last week, based on studies that showed that symptoms of mental health problems often occurred after troops returned to their normal routine

The need for additional testing in Europe arose after soldiers from the Vicenza, Italy-based Southern European Task Force returning from a one-year deployment to Iraq last March.

Upon their return, only 6.5 percent of the soldiers tested positive for symptoms of mental health disorder. The low number didn't seem accurate to the SETAF command, which ordered a new test four months later. The second test revealed that 15 percent of the soldiers showed symptoms.

The U.S. Army Europe ordered similar tests for months later for 1st Armored Division soldiers after they returned from Iraq last summer. Results were similar

The delayed reaction could be due to a "bubble effect," that is, all the changes that have taken place over the past year finally get a chance to set in, said Lt. Col. Paul Bliese, commander of the Army Medical Research Unit-Europe.
"In a combat situation, it's adap-

tive to be aggressive and com-bat-alert," Bleise said. "They're kind of expecting to turn that off immediately when they return 'The mind doesn't work that

way. It takes a while for those symptoms to dissipate." A study by Walter Reed Army Institute of Research released

July 1, found that one of every six troops who served in Iraq or Afghanistan showed a symptom of anxiety, depression or other mental health disorder months after their return.

"(Returning troops) might be unconsciously minimizing the stress and trauma they've been through," according to Dr. (Lt. Col.) Steven Knorr, chief of the behavioral health division at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in

three-to-six months later, (they) might find themselves feeling a little different than they were pre-deployment." The tests will be given to identi-

fy troops experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder, depression anger, relationship problems, excessive alcohol consumption and trouble sleeping.
Officials in Europe said they

found that troops might not show symptoms immediately after returning home or during 30-day block leave. But if months later they are still scanning rooftops for sniners or taking cover when a car backfires, they should consider talking to someone.

Many times the problem is minor, according to Dr. Kathleen Wright, a psychologist with the Army Medical Research Unit-Eu-

rope in Heidelberg, Germany. "People don't have to suffer needlessly," Wright said. "(Many troops) seemed very relieved to be able to discuss it. Even that very brief intervention was help-

Afghan officials launch effort to collect Stingers

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Af-ghan authorities are launching a new push to collect U.S.-made Stinger missiles left over from the 1980s war against Soviet occupiers, fearing they could end up in the hands of terrorists, an

official said Sunday

The Afghan intelligence service will buy the surface-to-air missiles whether they work or not for an undisclosed sum, state television reported.

Hussein Fakhri, a senior intelligence official, confirmed the TV report but declined to elabo

The CIA supplied hundreds of Stingers to mujahedeen rebels who used them to devastating effect against Soviet heliconters and transport planes before Moscow pulled its troops out of Afghanistan in 1989

Since then, the American spy gency has been trying to buy them back to try to keep them out of the possession of terrorist organizations and governments such as Iran, but hundreds are still believed unaccounted for.

Mohammed Azimi, a spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Defense, said authorities had recovered four Stingers as well as other surface-to-air missiles from the south and east under a U.N.-sponsored disarmament program that was launched after the fall of the Taliban in

Rick Grant, a U.N. spokesman, confirmed that the disarmament program had directed several militia commanders with Stingers toward American officials

"We've come across commanders who've handed in their SAM-7s and their tanks but were asking, in essence: 'Where am I going to sell my Stingers?" "Grant said.

Maj. Mark McCann, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Kabul, declined to comment on the Stinger buyback. "It's not

our program." According to the TV report, the intelligence service plans a poster campaign to publicize the effort to collect the missiles.

Iragis vote in first free election despite violence

44 killed in attacks at polls

BY MARIAM FAM

BAGHDAD - Iraqis defied violence and calls for a boycott to cast ballots in Irag's first free election in a half-century Sunday. Insurgents seeking to wreck the vote struck polling stations with a string of suicide bombings and mortar volleys, killing at least 44 neonle, including nine attackers.

Women in black abayas whispered prayers at the sound of a nearby explosion as they waited to vote at one Baghdad polling sta-

But the mood for many was upbeat: Civilians and policemen danced with joy at one of the five polling stations where photographers were allowed, and some streets were packed with voters walking shoulder-to-shoulder to vote. The elderly made their way. hobbling on canes or riding wheelchairs; one elderly woman was pushed along on a wooden cart, another man carried a disabled 80-year-old on his back.
"This is democracy," said Kar-

fia Abbasi, holding up a thumb stained with purple ink to prove she had voted.

Officials said turnout among the 14 million eligible voters ap-peared higher than the 57 percent that had been predicted, although it would be some time before any turnout figure was confirmed. No preliminary results were expected before Monday at the earliest. and final results will not be known for seven to 10 days, the election commission said.

Polls were largely deserted all day in many cities of the Sunni Triangle north and west of the capital, particularly Fallujah, Ramadi and Beiji. In Baghdad's mainly Sunni Arab area of Azamiyah, the neighborhood's four polling centers did not open at all, residents said.

A low Sunni turnout could undermine the new government that will emerge from the vote and worsen tensions among the country's ethnic, religious and cultural groups

In a reminder of the dangers that persist in Iraq, a British C-130 military transport plane crashed north of Baghdad, with the wreckage strewn over a large area officials said British Prime Minister Tony Blair said there were British deaths in the crash, but did not say how many. The British version of the C-130 can carry up to 128 passengers; there was no word on how many were on the crashed plane

Casting his vote, interim Prime Minister Avad Allawi called it



Above: An Iraqi man gets help from a U.S. Army medic Sunday after he was shot in the face by an insurgent near a polling station in Mosul, Iraq. He was rushed to a local hospital and is expected to survive. Right: A member of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq casts his ballot in eastern Ramadi, Iraq.

"the first time the Iraqis will determine their destiny With Arabs across the Middle

East watching the vote, Egyptian President Hosni Muharak telephoned Allawi to congratulate him on the election, saying he hoped it would "open the way for the restoration of calm and stability.

Prominent Iragi Sunni politician Adnan Pachachi — who in recent months had called for the vote to be postponed because of violence — told CNN he was "relieved" and "encouraged" by a turnout he said was better than expected, even in Falluiah and Mosul.

Shiite Muslims, estimated at 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people, were expected to vote in large numbers, encouraged by clerics who hope their community will gain power after generations of opression by the Sunni minority. Voting appeared heavy in Shi-

ite and mixed Shiite-Sunni neigh-

borhoods in Baghdad, but low in some heavily Sunni areas Sunnis in mixed neighborhoods

may have voted in greater numbers there because pressure to boycott was less intense - and chances of retaliation lower because they would not stand out at the polls. There are few ways by sight to distinguish Sunni and Shi-

The election will create a 275-member National Assembly and 18 provincial legislatures. The assembly will draw up the coun try's permanent constitution and will select a president and two denuty presidents, who in turn will name a new prime minister and Cabinet to serve for 11 months until new elections are held.

The election is a major test of President Bush's goal of promoting democracy in the Middle East. If successful, it also could hasten the day when the United

States brings home its 150,000 troops. One of them, a Marine, was killed in combat Sunday in Iraq's restive Anbar province. Guerrilla attacks began within

two hours of the balloting's start Sunday morning. All but one of the day's suicide attacks came in Baghdad, mostly against polling sites, using bombers on foot with explosives strapped to their bodies since private cars were banned from the streets.

The group al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for elec-tion-day attacks in a Web statement, although the claim could not be verified. A few hours after polls closed at 5 p.m., thunderous explosions reverberated through central Baghdad, though their cause was unknown.

A ticket endorsed by the country's leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, is expected to fare best among the 111 can-





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Bush: Iraq election a success

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Bush called Sunday's elections in Iraq a success and promised the United States would continue trying to prepare Iraqis to secure their own country.

'The world is hearing the voice of freedom from the center of the Middle East," Bush told reporters at the White House on Sunday, four hours after the polls closed

Bush praised the bravery of Iraqis who turned out to vote despite continuing violence and intimidation. Bush said they "firmly rejected the antidemocratic ideology" of terrorists

Insurgents struck polling stations with a string of suicide bombings and mortar volleys, killing at least 44 people, including nine suicide bombers

"Some Iraqis were killed while exercising their rights as citizens," Bush said. He also mourned the loss of American and British troops killed Sunday. "Their sacrifices were made in a vital cause of free

Bush cautioned that the election will not end vio-

lence in Iraq, but said U.S. forces will continue training and helping Iraqis "so this rising democracy can

eventually take responsibility for its own security."
In a statement Sunday, Democratic Sen. Edward M. Kennedy said Bush "must look beyond the elec-

"The best way to demonstrate to the Iraqi people that we have no long-term designs on their country is for the administration to withdraw some troop now and to begin to negotiate a phase-down of our long-term military presence," Kennedy added.

Earlier Sunday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the elections are a first step to a brighter democratic future for a country once held under the thumb of tyranny.

Iraqis will now work to reduce ethnic or sectarian differences, and the United States will discuss the need for outside security forces with the newly elected Iraqi government. Rice said.

The insurgency is not going to go away as a result of today," she said, "but the Iraqi people have taken a very important step in losing the sense of fear and intimidation that has been in their lives for decades. under deposed leader Saddam Hussein.

U.S. troops report less violence in Baghdad

Neighborhoods in capital city experience high voter turnout

BY JASON CHUDY Stars and Strines

BAGHDAD - There was less violence and more voting

Tenth Mountain Division soldiers assigned to the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment's said that voter turnout was high in the three Baghdad neighborhoods of Kadhimiya, Shulla and Hurriya, and insurgent attacks were less than expected.

"It's certainly not the level of violence we expected," said 1st Lt. Brian Wood, executive officer for Company C. "It's definitely worse than a normal day, but there are a lot more targets (for insurgents) out there.

Rocket, mortar and gunfire echned throughout the area all day None of the battalion's soldiers were injured. But it wasn't quiet everywhere in Iraq's capital and largest city

In an adjoining sector pa-trolled by the 91st Engineer Bat-talion, a man detonated a bomb



at a polling site, killing only himself. Radio reports received by 4-31st soldiers stated that after the attack, Iraqis placed the suicide bomber's head, which was still intact, on his severed foot and passing voters spit on the re-

Even after some polling stations were attacked, voters would often continue to arrive to cast their ballots



First Lt. Daniel Hurd, left, and Sgt. 1st Class James Shinholt talk to election officials and Iraqi police officers Sunday at a polling site in Baghdad. The soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment visited a number of polling sites to check on security.

which had 125 polling sites in its sector, were out in force during the entire 10-hour voting period, and they spent more time dodging soccer halls than fighting in-

The government had imposed a driving ban for all but official vehicles; so most of the city's younger men took advantage of the han to set up impromptu soccer fields on the streets, using rocks or sets of shoes as goal posts

After a slow start, rural residents get busy voting

BY TERRY BOYD Stars and Strings

OMYER AHMAD AS SAMIR, Iraq -Master Sgt. Joseph Lieberman loves coming to the villages on the forlorn plains 30 miles east of Tikrit. The people, says Lieberman, a civil affairs solder attached to the 1st Infantry Division, are genuine and friendly, unlike the people in the urban areas here near Saddam Hussein's home

Even on Election Day.

Like Tikrit, people on the plains are Sunni, and the area is still part of the Sunni Triangle, the most dangerous region for coalition forces. But following the lead of their sheiks - cultivated by soldiers and officers from the Schweinfurt, Germany-based Troop C, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st ID — rural Sunnis apparently voted in droves in Sunday's elections

Soldiers from 1-4 Cavalry drove across astern Iraq from Forward Operating Base Wilson near Tikrit, picking up nearly 7,000 ballots in an area with 20,000 residents. "That's better than the U.S.," said Maj Keith Barclay, FOB Wilson executive officer, said of the voter turnout

The drive was eerily serene, with no traf-fic either way on the 60-mile round trip drive because of a nationwide ban of driving Sunday to curb possible suicide car

As Barclay entered al-Badevia School, polling place 27 in a village a few miles east of Tikrit, a sheik said 2,500 people have voted in the sparsely populated area.

When Barclay tells the sheik that in Jillam, home to insurgent leader Ibrahim Al-Douri, one person voted, the gaggle of police, soldiers and villagers break out in laughter.

"Well, maybe they didn't have as good a security as you," Barclay said, surrounded by dozens of assault-rifle wielding Iraqi soldiers and police.



ive: Maj. Keith Barclay, from left, Master Sgt. Joseph Lieberman and Sheik Hajjim walk from a polling station outside Tikrit, Iraq, after Barclay presented one of the sheik's security personnel with a medal for his contribution to the elections. Right: Sgt. Reyes Terrazas lifts a box of ballots, some of about 2,700 cast in a village east of Tikrit.

It was a rare moment of levity what was otherwise deadly serious husiness Al-Douri and other insurgents swore to make the streets run red with blood during

the election.

As for Al-Douri, "some people still think he's out here somewhere," said Master Sgt. Steven Ziebarth, non-commissioned officer in charge at FOB Wilson, gesturing toward the dry washes around Omyer Ahmad as Samir

Though FOB Wilson's area of responsibility was relatively quiet for the election, there were incidents.

On Saturday, a sniper wounded an Iraqi soldier based at FOR Wilson

Another insurgent tried to put a pipe omb in a building a few meters from a polling station in Omyer Ahmad as Samir. Iraqi police and soldiers opened up on him, firing hundreds of rounds, but failing to kill him, Ziebarth said. American ordnance disposal soldiers destroyed the bomb, he said

Soldiers worked hard to cultivate local tribal sheiks to bolster security and to improvise their way through several mass mutinies by Iraqi poll workers.



The busy Iraqi-vote monitoring center at FOB Wilson tracked the uneven turnout. In Ad-Dawr, next to FOB Wilson, three of four Sunni-neighborhood voting stations recorded zero votes as of noon Sunday.

while nearby Shiite neighborhoods had modest turnouts But by 9 a.m. - two hours after the voting started, it was clear the sheiks' areas

were swamped with voters.

"I'm really excited about that. I'm really excited," Barclay said as the numbers came in. "This is really a big deal." As his soldiers picked up ballots, Bar-

clay said he's confident that the votes are legitimate because the sheiks involved have always been reliable: "We've worked with them since Day One."

As the 14-soldier team prepared to leave FOB Wilson at about 2 p.m. to pick up ballot boxes, Barclay remind the soldiers the job was almost finished.

"There's been a lot of stress," he said. When we get the ballots back to FOB Wilson, then it will have been a successful elec-

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boydt@mail.estripes.

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SEPH GIORDONO/Stars ar

Sgt. LaTasha Boyd, of the 2nd Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, does a security check on the first female voter at one of the polling stations in Ramadi, Iraq. Security concerns in the city were expected to keep voter turnout low.

Ramadi voters stay home

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO Stars and Stripes

RAMADI, Iraq — Security concerns, roadside bombs and a series of brief gunbattles kept most Ramadi citizens from participating in Sunday's historic Iraqi elec-

One U.S. soldier was killed and at least two others injured by a roadside bomb around 3 a.m. Sunday, according to military officials. In another attack at noon, a Humvee patrolling less than 200 meters from a polling station was hit by another bomb, sending a huze plume of smoke into the skv.

The Humvee crew all escaped with minor wounds, but the explosion touched off long bursts of machine-gun fire from Iraqi and American troops manning security positions at the nearby polling site, a large grammar school compound.

According to soldiers who were observing from a nearby rooftop position, the second roadside bomb was planted by a teenage boy who ran into the street and dropped a large plastic bag just moments before a U.S. patrol drove through.

For long minutes after the explosion, ammunition from the Humvee continued to cook off and fire into the air.

Before the explosion, 75 people
—including Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq poll workers and special police comman-

dos protecting the site — had voted at the school in eastern Ramadi, U.S. military officials said. At midmorning, the nearby streets had been full of curious residents watching voters walk to the polling station. After the explosion and gunfire, the streets were deserted and no other vot-

Ramadi's 400,000 residents were subject of a harassment campaign by insurgents, who promised death to anyone who voted Sunday.

ers came

At another polling site in the Sofiya district of Ramadi, the polls were more active. More than 100 people had woted by early afternoon, officials said. There were eight polling stations in the city of Ramadi, U.S. and Iraqi officials said, and they estimated that about 1,000 people cast ballots during the day.

"I'll never forget this day," said Pfc. Branden Bell, a 19-year-old infantryman from Napa, Calif., who had been manning the polling entrance closest to the second Humvee explosion.

Bell and another soldier with Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment felt small pieces of shrapnel land on their position after the explosion.

The first Iraqis to vote in Ramadi were the security forces and election workers, who began casting their ballots just after the polls opened at 7 a.m. The first two civilian voters came in at 8 a.m., and they were followed shortly after by a group that included two women.

In a tent near the polling station entrance, three female soldiers from the 2nd Forward Support Battalion — which deployed from South Korea along with 4,200 other U.S. troops last fall helped perform security checks

on the female voters who arrived. Iraqis who voted said through interpreters they were proud to have participated in a day they thought would never happen. The first two women who voted—arriving in long black robes and headdresses — repeatedly said thanks to Allah and shook nearly every hand in sight.

When one of the women placed her ballot in the large plastic collection bin, she turned her eyes and palms skyward, uttering a short prayer.

Soldiers and Marines in Iraq certainly knew they were part of something historic, despite the low turnout in Ramadi.

"Thad grandfathers who fought in Korea and World War II, and I don't think they really knew they were doing something special the time," said Marine Lance Cpl. Christopher Green, a dog handler attached to the 1-503rd for election day.

"But I think guys know this is big. This is something important"

E-mail Joseph Giordono at: giordonoi@pstripes.osd.mil

Baghdad: A historic election

BAGHDAD, FROM PAGE 6

Interrupting game after game, soldiers from the battalion's three companies and others from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment visited polling sites throughout the day to check on security.

They didn't spend much time at any, said 1st Lt. Daniel Hurd, Company A, 2-14th's executive officer. Site security was entirely handled by Iraqi saldiers and police

At one point a patrol from Company A passed a handful of armored personnel carriers from an Iraqi mechanized unit on one of the main north-south streets through the Kadhimiya district. Pedestrians waved and cheered as the Iraqi troops passed.

"I've seen more (Iraqi National Guard) in the past three days than I have in the entire time in country." Wood said. seen in large numbers throughout the district, but so were voters.

"Based on the reports received during the day ... I'd say there was a 75 percent turnout," said battalion commander Lt. Col. John Spiszer, as he stopped at a forward patrol base shortly before the end of the elections.

By 11 a.m. reports had reached the battalion command post at Camp Justice that some polling sites were running out of ballots.

Throughout the small section of Baghdad, people walked around with blackened right index fingers, the identifying mark of those who have voted.

Soldiers took pictures and videos of Iraqis dancing and singing outside of the polling sites after they cast their votes.

Soldiers seemed less enthusias-

tic about the elections than the Iraqis in Baghdad, possibly exacerbated from an increased pace of operations leading up to Sunday's vote.

"I think there's mixed feelings," said staff sgt. Scott Price of Company A, 2-14th, about election day finally arriving. "The longer they've been here the less they care. They do care because it's their job right now."

And with a higher voter turnout than hoped, and a smaller amount of insurgent attacks than expected, the soldiers' worst fears weren't realized here.

"It's 100 percent better than everything we expected," said Company C's Spc. Steven Ealy. "It's much ado about nothing."

Staff Sgt. Shawn Bush added, "It's like Y2K was."

E-mail Jason Chudy at:



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Strine

Sgt. Dustin White, medic with 1st Platoon, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, stands next to his Humvee on Election Day on Sunday. Posters for the many Iraqi political parties running in the election are pasted on the nearby bridge support.

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Around the world expatriate Iraqis vote

BY MICHAEL MCDONOUGH

The Associated Press

LONDON — Iraqis around the world streamed into polling stations Sunday for their last chance to cast ballots in Iraq's historic election, expressing hopes that the vote will bring peace and stability to their homeland.

As millions of people in Iraq defied insurgent threats and voted in their nation's first independent election in five decades, Sunday also marked the third and final day of absentee voting in 14 other countries.

"This is a clear and loud message that Iraqis inside and outside are united in defeating terrorism," Mansour Ibrahim said as he entered a voting center amid tight security in the upscale Suwfiya neighborhood in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

Scuffles broke out between voters and anti-U.S. protesters at a polling station Sunday in Britain and voting was extended at one site in Australia to make up for lost time after a similar skirmish the day be-

But no major violence was reported and organizers said the three-day balloting that started Friday has been a success so far, despite early concerns about turnout after only 25 percent of 1.2 eligible Iraqis abroad registered to vote.

The low registration figure was attributed partly to fears of violence and retribution from insurgents but also the fact that not all countries with large numbers of Iraqis, including Egypt, participated and many voters had to travel abroad to register and then again to vote.

Many Iraqis in the United States had to



Iraqi national Shukria Abdul Kadir, who lives in London, holds up her passport as she registers before voting for the Iraq elections Friday. This is the first time the 83-year-old woman has participated in an Iraqi election.

drive hundreds of miles to reach the five polling places: Nashville, Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington.

Most of those who did sign up were thrilled at the chance to participate. The latest available figures showed that about two-thirds of those who did sign up had cast ballots in the first two days. The Geneva-based International Organization for Migration, which is conducting the expatriate vote for Iraq's electoral commission, said 186,619 of the 280,303 registered Iraqis went to the polls Friday and Saturday, many traveling long distances.

"Everything is proceeding well, every-

one is terribly excited about these historic elections," said Sarah Fradgley, an IOM spokeswoman in London. "Everyone is anxiously waiting for news from Iraq and people have been speaking to their families in Baghdad and elsewhere." Fistfights broke out at a polling station in

Fistfights broke out at a polling station in Manchester, northern England, between mostly Kurdish-Iraqi voters and dozens of protesters who claimed the elections legitimize the US-led coalition's presence in Iraq, Sky News TV reported. Jubilant voters at a voting center in

Jubilant voters at a voting center in Wembley, northwest London, danced and held up Kurdish flags.

But police said they arrested one person for threatening behavior and about 50 demonstrators protesting the elections waved banners and shouted slogans in Arabic.

In Berlin hundreds of Iraqi expatriates arrived by the busload to take part in the voting.

"It is the first time we've been allowed to ve. For us, for our lives, it is very important," said Rana Al-Mudhaffar, 52, who left Iraq in 1980. She and her 24-year-old daughter, Sana, traveled three hours from the eastern state of Thuringia to cast ballote.

"We're hoping a democratic government

will bring peace and stability to Iraq."
In Australia, voting was extended by a half hour on Saturday and Sunday at a polling station after skirmishes pitting largely Shitle Iraqi voters against protesters identified as fundamentalists and a bomb scare

closed it for an hour on Saturday.
Countries hosting the vote were Australia, the United States, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Jordan, the
Netherlands, Sweden, Syria, Turkey and
United Arab Emirates.



Iran has a stake in Iraqi election results

By NASSER KARIMI

TEHRAN, Iran—Iran strongly criticized the U.S. invasion of Iraq that toppled Saddam Hussein and opposed the U.S. occupation of its neighbor over the past two years. But with Iraqie voting the Child Shifted Sunday for a new government, objects will lead to the start of the start

Iran stands to reap huge benefits.

The election is likely to propel
Iraq's majority Shiites into power

Leaders in Tehran see new opportunities for relations Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan

for the first time since modern Iraq came into being in 1921, giving them the leading voice in shaping the country's future, which Shite-dominated Iran hopes will lead to friendly relations between the two nations that fought a brutal war two decades ago.

"This is a unique opportunity, not seen for centuries, for Iraqi policy to go in Iran's favor," said political analyst Hamid Reza Islaipour

Some Sunni Arab countries worry a new Iraqi government will form a Shiite cabal with Iran, but Iranians say they would be

happy with a secular Iraqi government that will simply establish good relations with them. Most importantly, some said, Iraqis need to decide what they want.

"Let its people decide about heir country's future," said Houshang Darab, 50, an Iranian textile broker who appealed to both the United States and Iran to avoid interfering in Iraq. "A secular, democratic government is the best choice since it would not have any excuse for war."

Íranians took the Iraqi elections in stride, with the historic event not being closely followed or discussed in Tehran. Television coverage was limited to a few minutes of footage in regular newscasts. Newspapers published editorials on the elections, and some of them printed a supplement on the history of Iraq, the election process and political system.

"I hope the election leads to the exit of the occupiers from Iraq," Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani said, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

State-run Tehran television said in a commentary Sunday the election "would be the beginning of democracy and the end of occupation and insurgency in Iraq."

Though both countries are home to most of the world's holiest Shiite shrines and their people have deep-rooted religious ties, an Iraqi Shiite theocracy could create problems for Iran, if it began to vie with Iran for leadership of worldwide Shiite Islam.

"A nonmilitary, non-ideological and elected government secures Iran's interests," said political analyst Saeed Laylaz.

The two countries have a bitter history. Iraq, controlled by Saddam's Sunni Arab dictatorship, fought an eight-year war with Iran that killed and injured an estimated I million people before inended in 1988. The two neighbors have never signed a peace agreement.

More recently, interim Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan called Iran his country's "first enemy," accusing it of supporting Iraqi insurgents and allowing them to freely cross the border. Tehran says it is trying to control the border, but at nearly 1,000 miles long, the frontier is hard to police.

The United States has also accused Iran of interfering in Iraq's affairs, a charge Teh- ran has de-

The election has put Iranian hard-liners, who dominate political life here, in an awkward position. Support for the poll would put them on the side of their archenemy the United States, while calling for a boycott would deny Iraq's Shilites a historic opportuni-

Iranian leaders, nervous about the presence of U.S. forces next door, also hope the election will be the first step toward ending the U.S. presence in Iraq.

Many Iranians, scarred by the memories of war, looked to the elections as a guarantee there would be no repeat of the conflict.

"We would witness peaceful co-

"We would witness peaceful coexistence with Iraq if democracy materializes there," said Mohammad Kianooshrad, a former member of the national security and foreign policy committee in Iran's parliament.

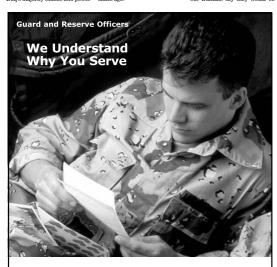
Shahriar Heidari, governor of Qasr-e Shirin, a border city that was flattened by Iraqi forces during the war, hoped the vote would bring peace.

"We will be happy if Iraqis are happy. Their security is our security. Democracy in the country would work in favor of the border areas of Iran," he said. He said the city's population of

He said the city's population of 30,000 would quadruple if peace and security were established in Iraq. About 130,000 people lived there before the Iran-Iraq war.

Others were more pessimistic.

"Sooner or later, Iran and Iraq will fight another war, this time using the excuse of presence of U.S.-led forces there," said Rajab Mansouri, a university student. "The Iran-Iraq border will never be at peace."



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One Powerful Voice:

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,428 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,087 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The AP count includes four military civilians and is 17 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major

combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,290 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 978 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military and the State Department:

■ A Defense Department civilian and a Navy sailor were killed Saturday when a rocket hit the U.S. Embassy compound in Baphdad.

■ A U.S. soldier was killed Saturday by an explosive in western Baghdad.

■ Two U.S. soldiers died Friday when their helicopter crashed in southwestern Bagh-

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Depart-

■ No identifications reported.

IN THE WORLD

5 weeks after tsunami, death toll still rising

BY IRWAN FIRDAUS The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — More bodies were still being discovered in Aceh five weeks after the disaster and the government said it had buried nearly 5,000 more victims in the past week, up-ping the death toll across 11 countries to between 150,704 and 178,115. Additionally, the number of missing ranges from 26,404 to 142,132 — with most presumed dead.

The variation in the tolls reflects differing figures being released by separate government agencies in both Sri Lanka and Indonesia, the hardest-hit countries in the Dec. 26 disaster.

Meanwhile, fresh fighting in Indonesia's Aceh province and a premature end to cease-fire talks between the government and rebels dampened hopes of peace in the tsunami-hit region, but aid workers said Sunday they weren't being targeted and were optimistic the massive relief effort would not be disrupted.



An Acehnese woman washes dishes outside her tent in a refugee camp in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on Sunday. Aceh's government said it buried nearly 5,000 more victims in the past week, upping the death toll across 11 countries to between 150,704 and 178,115.

The clash in Aceh occurred Saturday when soldiers shot and killed a guerrilla commander and three of his fighters in a gunbattle in the east of the province, Indonesian military spokesman Lt. Col. Eddyana Sulistiadie said. Independent confirmation was not immediately available.

But the United Nations said it didn't expect the fighting to affect relief work.

"We don't expect to be a target," said Joel Boutroue, head of the United Nations' relief efforts in Aceh.

Meanwhile, in other developments:

French construction giant La-

arge SA, the world's largest coment supplier, said it plans to invest "tens of millions of dollars" to rebuild a big cement factory in the tsunami. "There is a lot of money coming in for the reconstruction, and naturally cement will be needed for that," Tom Ehrart, the head of Lafarge Indonesia, said.

■ Austria announced it would send a team of experts to Sri Lanka to help rebuild its rail system, which was badly damaged by the waves. Among the dead in Sri Lanka were about 800 people who were killed when the tsunami tore through their train as it traveled along the coastline.

■ Thailand is to establish a tsunami museum to chronicle the plight of survivors and changes to the environment in areas devastated by the waves. Photographs, video footage, satellite images and interviews with survivors

have already been collected, the Thai News Agency said.

■ A meeting in Thailand of delegates from 47 nations approved a plan Saturday to set up a tsunami warning network for southern Asia. Delegates had originally planned for a centralized system, but failed to agree on where to base a hub that would collect seismic and occanographic data, anaeas in danger. Experts say even a few minutes' warning could have saved many of the lives lost.

The Aceh peace talks were held near Helsinki, Finland, on Friday and Saturday. They ended a day early without a formal truce being reached, said former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, who convened the meeting.

There was no word on why they ended prematurely. Indonesian Communications Minister Sofyan Djalil described the talks as "quite hopeful." Ahtisaari said neither party had yet accepted an invitation to a second round of

West Bank turnover

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel will transfer security control over several West Bank towns to the Palestinians on Wednesday, Israel's defense minister said Sunday, hours after meeting with a top Palestinian negotiator to work out the details of Israel's troop redeployment.

Israel informed Palestinian officials it was ready to with-draw from all West Bank towns "within a very short period of time" and return to positions it held before the outbreak of fighting in September 2000, said Hassan Abu Libdeh, a senior Palestinian official.

5 killed by old mine

ARGHANDAB, Afghanistan
— Five civilians died and at least nine others were injured Sunday when their pickup truck hit a mine apparently left over from Afghanistan's long wars, officials and witnesses said.

The vehicle detonated the land mine after driving off the side of the road in a remote area near Arghandab in southern Kandahar province.

Three die in shootout

KUWAIT CITY — Three suspected terrorists and as ecurity officer were killed Sunday in a shootout in a neighborhood in Kuwait's capital where many foreigners live, state television reported Sunday.

Four police officers were injured in the clash and one suspect was arrested in the operation, according to state-owned Kuwaiti Television. A Bahraini man who lived in the building where the attack took place was also killed, according to the report, but he "was not connected to the incident." From The Associated Press

Suspected terror bomb hits Spanish hotel

BY DANIEL WOOLLS

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A bomb exploded Sunday in a Mediterranean resort hotel in southeast Spain after a telephone warning from the Basque separatist group ETA, injuring one person, the Interior Ministry said.

The bomb was contained in a backpack and detonated in a courtyard of the Hotel Port Denia at about 3:15 p.m. Denia is a beach town in the Spanish province of Alicante and is popular with tongists.

The warning call was placed to police in the Basque region. The caller ended the warning by saying, "Gora ETA," which is Basque for "Long live ETA," an Interior Ministry official in Madrid said on condition of anomytity.

The hotel immediately evacuated about 160 people before the bomb exploded about 30 minutes later. A male guest suffered slight ear injuries from the blast, the official said.

Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso condemned the attack in a statement and vowed that Spain's security forces "will continue to use all the means at their disposal, with current law as the only limit, until ETA disappears completely."

ETA is blamed for more than 800 deaths since the late 1960s in a campaign of bombings and shootings aimed at achieving an independent Basque homeland in land straddling northern Spain and southwest France.

The hotel bombing occurred two days before Spain's Parliament was scheduled to debate—and almost certainly reject—a proposal making the Basque re-

gion virtually independent.

On Jan. 18, a powerful car bomb exploded in the affluent town of Getxo near the main Basque city, Bilbao. That blast also was preceded by a call from a person claiming to speak for ETA.

That explosion caused slight injuries to a policeman and dashed hopes that ETA might be close to calling a cease-fire. Two days earlier, ETA issued a statement appealing to the Spanish govern-

ment to start peace talks with Batasuna, ETA's banned political

The statement made no mention of ETA laying down its weapons, the government's stated condition for undertaking such talks.

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Social forum ends on upbeat note

Activists see promise for gains in battle against poverty

The Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland - More than 2,000 of the world's rich and powerful left this luxurious Swiss ski resort Sunday with a message of hope about the future of the Koreas and a few more ideas on how to improve the world.

South Korean unification minister Chung Dong-young said he was hopeful there would be "substantial resolution" in nuclear talks with North Korea. "The time for diplomacy is now" he said

Whether any of the lofty goals set forward at the World Economic Forum for stamping out poverty, fighting disease and bringing peace to the Middle East and elsewhere will take root in the global trouble spots far from this idvllic Alpine village won't be known for some time.

But there was hope among many social activists here, including U2 frontman Bono, that the world leaders were doing more than just blowing smoke.

"I think we can be the generation that ends extreme poverty, I really do, and I think I will spend the rest of my life pledged to that commitment," Bono said, heaping praise on Brit-ish Prime Minister Tony Blair, Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates and others he said were committed to "getting it right" in fight-ing poverty, particularly in Africa.

The Davos summit has been taking place for decades, mostly as a place for billionaires and millionaires to mingle. Businessmen pay \$12,000 each for the privilege of rubbing

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weights like German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, former U.S. president Bill Clinton. newly elected Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and others.

But the gathering has become more socially conscious in recent years, in part in respon to anti-globalization protesters who have denounced it as elitist and disconnected.

Blair and French President Jacques Chirac challenged world leaders to finally address grinding poverty in Africa, where 300 million people lack safe drinking water, 3,000 African children under the age of 5 die every day from malaria, and 6,000 die daily of AIDS

"We know all of this. So what can be done?" Blair said in the forum's keynote address

Britain wants rich nations to set a timetable for raising development aid and for more countries to join the "International Finance Facility" that is designed to double aid to Africa from \$50 billion a year.

American leaders, normally a strong presence at the summit, were notably absent this year amid a rise in anti-U.S. sentiment. The highest-ranking Bush administration official to attend was Labor Secretary Elaine Chao. The absence of a Republican heavy-hitter at the meeting which comes only a week after President Bush's inauguration frustrated some participants trying to get new insight into U.S. policy over the next four years.

Talks at the summit echoed the mood amund the world There was optimism over Israeli-Palestinian relations amid steps toward reconciliation by both sides since the death of Palestinian leader Vasser Arafat

Shimon Peres, Israel's vice premier, said the "magic has returned to the mountain" of Middle East peace after many years of violence and hopelessness. In 1994, Peres negotiated with Arafat in round-the-clock talks that both sides hailed as inspired by the mountain, a reference to Thomas Mann's novel "The Magic Mountain," which is set in Dayos.

Far less optimism was expressed over Iraq a senior analyst at Rand Corp. described the situation as a "clarion call" for Islamic militants that may spark terrorist attacks far from its horders

"In terms of perception, we've already lost the war." said Bruce Hoffman, chief of the think tank's Washington office. "I believe that a cult of the insurgent has emerged from

Other Mideast issues were given a positive spin, with a senior Saudi ambassador predicting that women in the strictly segregated Islamic nation will be allowed to vote in future elections, and the Iranian foreign minister suggesting that informal contacts with the United States over nuclear issues were achievable through European intermediaries.

On the economic front Chinese Vice Premier Huang Ju predicted that the nation's per capita income will triple over the next 15 years, and that there was no reason for the world to fear his country's emergence as a glo-bal giant. "China will by no means pose a threat to others," he said. "The earth is a common home to all of us."

hard to understand for the sisters

fact that they turned 100 on Sun-

day "isn't that big of a deal.
"Not much different from

" she said.

after all. Ingvarsson said, the

Still, Ingvarsson and Gaellstedt

- who both walk without any as-

sistance and do all their daily chores themselves — did their

best to answer some of the ques

tions they've almost grown tired

of by now. No, they repeated time

and again, they do not really have

cause we lived only on turnip back in 1914." Gaellstedt said.

That's all we had to eat during

the world war. The first one, that

now, they said, but that hasn't stopped them from keeping their health. Aside from when they gave birth — they each had one child — Gaellstedt is the only one

who has ever been hospitalized. She broke her thigh bone two

years ago, but recovered quickly,

citizens have access to free home-help service, the sisters do

their shopping, cleaning, cooking

and laundry themselves. They have both lived in the same apart

ment building for more than 50

years, Ingvarsson on the second floor and Gaellstedt on the third.

The building has no elevator, but neither sister has any trouble get-

ting up and down the stairs every

But in a country where senior

she said

We like to joke and say it's be

a secret formula for long life

erent from turn



Nigerian president and current AU Chairman Olusegun Obasanjo and his wife, Stella Obasanjo, arrive Sunday at the venue of the African Union Summit in Ahuia, Nigeria.

Summit aims to cut woes in Africa

BY DANIEL BALINT-KURTI The Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo implored dozens of leaders gath-ered Sunday at an African Union summit to work together to overcome the problems afflicting the world's poorest continent.

Africa's conflicts — and ways the AU can help end them — are expected to take center stage during the summit, with leaders set to discuss fighting in war-divided countries, such as Ivory Coast and Congo, and ongoing violence in Sudan's western Darfur ren, officials said.

"Let us show to the world that we can really tackle and solve African issues," said Obasanjo, who holds the AU's rotating leader-ship, as he kicked off the summit in the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

While most of the world has grown wealthier in the four decades since the majority of African countries won independence, the continent has largely grown poorer, a fact the chairman of the Ethiopia-based AU, Alpha Oumar Konare, linked to persistent conflicts.

"If the security of our continent doesn't improve, no development is possible." he told African lead-

At least 40 of Africa's 53 leaders were in Abuja for the

twice-yearly, two-day summit.
U.N. reform is also high on the

summit's agenda. African leaders are vying for more of a say in U.N. affairs, long dominated by the U.N. Security Council's five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

One possible U.N. reform is expanding the Security Council, and Nigeria — the continent's most populous nation and a re-gional political and military heavyweight — is one of the African country's angling for a permanent seat on a larger council.

Sweden's oldest twins give credit to turnips

The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden They have lived for 200 years be-

tween them, but Sweden's oldest pair of twins had never seen anything like this before. Holding up a birthday cake and two bouquets of flowers, Siri Ing-varsson and Gunhild Gaellstedt

seemed bewildered by the num-ber of photographers huddled around them in the living room of Gaellstedt's Stockholm apartment earlier this week.

"Why do they need five photographers?" Gaellstedt asked. "Do they not think we'll stick on the

The media attention seemed

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IN THE STATES

Audit: Nearly \$9B unaccounted for in Iraq

BY LARRY MARGASAK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The U.S. occupation authority in Iraq was unable to keep track of nearly \$9 billion it transferred to government ministries, which lacked financial controls, security, communications and adequate staff, an inspector general has

The U.S. officials relied on Iraqi audit agencies to account for the funds, but those offices were not even functioning when the funds were transferred between October 2003 and June 2004, according to an audit by a special U.S. inspector general.

The findings were released Sunday by Stuart Bowen Jr., special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction. Bowen issued several reports on the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), the U.S. occupation government that ruled Iraq from June 2003 to

The official who led the CPA, L. Paul Bremer III, submitted a blistering, written reply to the findings, saying the report had "many misconceptions and inaccuracies" and lacked professional judgment.

Bremer complained the report "assumes that western-style budgeting and account44 We believe the CPA management

of Iraq's national budget process and oversight of Iraqi funds was burdened by severe inefficiencies and poor management.

Stuart Bowen Jr.

Special inspector general for Iran reconstruction

ing procedures could be immediately and fully implemented in the midst of a war.

The inspector general said the occupy ing agency disbursed \$8.8 billion to Iraqi ministries "without assurance the monies were properly accounted for.'

U.S. officials, the report said, "did not establish or implement sufficient managerial. financial and contractural controls." There was no way to verify that the money was used for its intended purposes of financing humanitarian needs, economic reconstruction, renair of facilities, disarmament and civil administration.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said Sunday the authority was hamstrung by "extraordinary conditions" under

which it worked throughout its mission. "We simply disagree with the audit's con-

clusion that the CPA provided less than ad-equate controls," Whitman said. Turning over the money "was in keeping with the CPA's responsibility to transfer

these funds and administrative responsibilities to the Iraqi ministries as an essential part of restoring Iraqi governance The inspector general cited an Interna-tional Monetary Fund assessment in Octo-

ber 2003 on the poor state of Iraqi government offices. The assessment found minis-tries suffered from staff shortages, poor security disruptions in communications. damage and looting of government buildings, and lack of financial policies.

Some of the transferred funds may have paid "ghost" employees, the inspector general found

Storm puts lights out for 300,000 in Georgia

CPA staff learned that 8,206 guards

only 602 could be accounted for, the report said. At another ministry, U.S. officials found 1,417 guards on the payroll but could only confirm 642.

When staff members of the U.S. occupation government recommended that payrolls be verified before salary payments, CPA financial officials "stated the CPA would rather overpay salaries than risk not paying employees and inciting violence,

the inspector general said. Bremer attacked many of the specific findings. Among his rebuttal points:

■ The report was suggesting the CPA "should have placed hundreds of CPA auditors" in Iraqi ministries, contrary to United States and United Nations policy of giving Iraqi ministers responsibility for their budgets

■ The CPA established a program review board, an independent judiciary and inspector generals in each agency to fight corruption.

The inspector general's report rejected Bremer's criticism. It concluded that de-spite the war, "We believe the CPA management of Iraq's national budget process and oversight of Iraqi funds was burdened by severe inefficiencies and poor manage-

Woman dies in prison

LAS VEGAS - The only woman on Nevada's death row, imprisoned for running down a holiday crowd on a sidewalk nearly 25 years ago, died Saturday at age 75, authorities said Priscilla Ford, who had ap-

pealed her death sentence several times, was suffering from emphysema, said Fritz Schlottman, spokesman for the Neva da Department of Corrections. Ford was convicted of kill-

ing six people and injured 23 others when she drove down a crowded Reno sidewalk on Thanksgiving Day in 1980.

Selling KKK gear

HOWELL, Mich. Kluy Klan robes sold for un to \$1,425 and a KKK knife drew a \$400 bid Saturday during an auction of paraphernalia from the racist group that critics have blasted as insensitive

Auctioneer Gary Gray said a steady stream of people visited the auction house in Howell in the hours leading up to the sale. where participants could bid on 12 KKK robes and capes, as well as buttons, books, swords, natches and movies

Four killed in crash

ter bus collided with a tractor-trailer in western New York on Saturday, splitting the bus in half and killing four peo-

The bus was carrying members of a Canadian women's youth hockey team when it rear-ended the truck parked on the shoulder of Interstate 390, about 27 miles south of Rochester.
The truck driver and three

passengers were killed, said Mark O'Donnell, a spokesman for New York State Police. From The Associated Press

The bill's advocates evoke the

Latest winter debacle The weather was taking a sharp turn on Sunday, with highs in the 40s forecast for northern Georgia and in the 60s in the again leaves hundreds

stranded in airports BY ELIOTT C. MCLAUGHLIN The Associated Press

ATLANTA — More than 300,000 customers had no electricity Sunday in Georgia as crews worked to repair power lines snapped by an ice storm, and hundreds of people stranded by canceled airline flights spent the night sleeping at the city's air-

Two traffic deaths in Georgia and one in South Carolina were blamed on the storm that spread sleet and freezing rain across parts of the Southeast on Satursouthern part of the state, the National Weather Service said. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta In-

ernational Airport got ready to open a third runway Sunday, spokeswoman Lanii Thomas said. Only two - and at one point only one — of its four runways were available Saturday as crews labored to scrape off ice.

Still, fewer than 100 departures were scheduled out of one of the world's busiest airports Sunday morning, she said. About 300 travelers spent the night at the airport Saturday night.

"I'm sure the airlines are going to do everything within their power to rebuild their schedules," Thomas said



A firefighter walks past the destruction left after a motor home collided with an 18-wheeler on Interstate 77 Saturday in Fort Mill, S.C. The Timbers family of Ontario, Canada, was on their way to Walt Disney World when they hit a patch of ice and lost control.

Teen abortions bill high on GOP's priority list

BY DAVID CRARY The Associated Press

NEW YORK - The abortion bill most likely to become federal law this year would affect a relatively small number of pregnant teens, yet its impact on them could be dramatic - sharply reducing the options for girls in many states who dread telling their parents of their plight.

Supporters and opponents each offer vivid worst-case scenarios in debating the bill, which was included last week in the Senate Republicans' priority list.

It would outlaw transporting a minor across state lines to obtain an abortion in order to evade parental consent or notification laws in the girl's home state

image of a girl being impregnated by an abusive older man who drives them to out-of-state abortion clinic so the girl's parents and the authorities won't find out about a relation. ship that might have been illegal because of age differences.

Opponents of the bill say it would criminalize the well-meaning acts of an aunt, older sister or other confidante who assists a girl terrified of being beaten or evicted from home if her parents learned of the pregnancy.

"You're talking about girls who really need support - let them use whatever support they have, said Shawn Towey of the National Network of Abortion Funds. "This bill is going to have a chilling effect on people who are just there to help

Titled the Child Custody Protection Act, and carrying a sentence of up to one year in prison, the bill

has bounced around Congress for years, winning House approval three times but never reaching a vote on the Senate floor. Only now - after making the Senate GOP's Top 10 priority list — do supporters and foes believe its passage is probable.

"We're proceeding as if it's going to pass," said Lorraine Kenny of the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project. ACLU lawyers already are studying possible challenges on grounds that the bill violates the right to travel from state to state and does not make an exception for cases when a girl's health is jeopardized.

Activists on both sides expect support for the bill from majority Republicans, perhaps joined by some Democrats. Some doubt Democratic leaders will wage an all-out fight against it.

"Politically, it would be very high risk for the Senate Demo-crats to filibuster this bill," said Douglas Johnson legislative director of the National Right to

Life Committee.

"Polls show that about 80 percent of Americans support the concept of parental notification."

Opponents agree that young women are better off telling parents about a pregnancy, and say most do so voluntarily. But abortion-rights activists argue that politicians should not impose man-dates that might backfire in cases where family communication already has broken down.

Sundance honors its best films | Secrecy in Jackson

NEW YORK - The family drama "Forty Shades of Blue centering on a modern Oedipal triangle involving a music producer, a Russian wife half his age and his son, won top dramatic honors at the Sundance Film Festival.

"Why We Fight," examining the chronically militant stance of the United States over the past half century, took Sundance's grand jury prize for documenta-

Awards were presented Saturday, with top winners screening last time on Sunday as the 11-day independent-film showcase ended in Park City, Utah.

Directed and co-written by Ira Sachs, "Forty Shades of Blue" stars Rip Torn as the aging husband, Dina Korzun as his Russian



Ira Sachs, who directed and co-wrote the film "Forty Shades of Blue," recieves the dramatic grand jury award for the film about a music producer, a Russian wife half his age and his son at the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday in Park City, Utah.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs	\$1.341
Dollar buys€	0.7458
British nound	\$1.94
Jananese ven (Jan. 31)	101.00
Japanese yen (Jan. 31) South Korean won (Jan. 29)1.	001.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	1 8888
Canada (Dollar)	1 2402
Canada (Dollar)	5 6976
Fount (Pound)	5.8716
Furo \$1 3036/	0.7671
Egypt (Pound)\$1.3036/ Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.700E
Hungary (Forint)	100 04
Iceland (Krona)	E0 E0
Israel (Shekel)	4 200E
Islael (Silekel)	102.20
Japan (Yen) Kuwait (Dinar)	103.30
Kuwait (binar)	0.2919
Norway (Krone)	0.3151
Philippines (Peso)	_55.06
Saudi Arabia (Riyai)	3.7500
Singapore (Dollar)	1.0330
South Korea (Won)1,	023.90
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1855
Thailand (Baht)	38.46
Turkey (New Lira)	1.4045
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available to customers at military	bank-

avariable to customers at military bank-ing facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military bank-ing facility. Commercial rates are inter-

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INTEREST RATES

Prime rate5.25
Discount rate
Federal funds market rate2.4375
3-month bill2.46
30-year bond4.61
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of
America

bride and Darren Burrows as the estranged son whose visit hurls their lives into turmoil.

'Why We Fight" was directed by Eugene Jarecki, brother of Andrew Jarecki, whose "Capturing the Friedmans" won the Sundance documentary prize in 2003

The audience award for dramatic films, chosen in voting by Sundance film-goers, went to "Hustle & Flow," the tale of a two-bit pimp drug-dealer (Terrence Howard) who enlists an odd assortment of allies in a bid to break into the hip-hop music scene. Written and directed by Craig Brewer, "Hustle & Flow" was produced by John Singleton.

Sundance movie-goers chose directors Henry Alex Rubin and Dana Adam Shapiro's "Murderball," a portrait of the competitive spirit of wheelchair-bound athletes, as the audience-award win-

earned the grand jury prize among world-cinema dramatic contenders

rector Leonard Retel Helmrich's portrait of a Christian family in

"The Hero," set in the aftermath of decades of civil war in Angola,

"Shape of the Moon," Dutch di-

ner for documentaries. Filmmaker Zeze Gamboa's

Muslim-dominated Indonesia.

force he led was too small to inter-Special jury prizes for acting were given to Amy Adams, who plays a childlike Southern waif

captivated by her worldly new sis-ter-in-law from up north in "Junebug," and to Lou Pucci as a teenager whose oral fixation for his thumb causes a ruckus among his family in "Thumbsucker."

took top honors in the world-cine-

ma documentary category.

Danish director Susanne Bier's

"Brothers," about two siblings

whose lives are drastically al-

tered when one is deployed on a United Nations mission to Afghan-

istan, received the world-cinema

Canada's "Shake Hands With

the Devil: The Journey of Romeo

Dallaire" won the audience award for world-cinema docu-

Directed by Peter Raymont

the film centers on the Canadian

military man who had to stand by

genocide because the token U.N.

helplessly during the Rwand

audience honor

molestation case thwarted by leaks

Entertainer scolds media on Web

44 [L]et me have

my day in

court.

BY ROBERT JARLON

The Associated Press LOS ANGELES - Michael

Jackson's child molestation trial begins this week with partici-pants and observers sharply divided over whether there has been too much secrecy imposed by the judge - or not enough secrecy because of media leaks

Graphic details of the testimony that led a grand jury to indict the entertainer have been leaked despite exceptional secrecy imposed by Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville to try to ensure a fair trial.

Jackson, 46, con-demned the leaks on Sunday as "disgusting and false, saying he de-served a fair trial and predicting that he would be acquitted.

"In the last few weeks, a large amount of ugly, malicious information has been released into the media about me, the singer said in a court-approved video statement released on his Web site.

"Please keep an open mind and let me have my day in court," Jackson added. "I deserve a fair trial like every other American citizen. I will be acquitted and vindicated when the truth is told."

To the dismay of news reporters and advocates of the public's right to know, Melville sealed many documents in the case, including dozens of search warrants and even portions of the indictment - items that normally would have been made public even in high-profile trials. Materials that were released had been heavily censored.

Melville also refused to release

the grand jury transcript, which normally is allowed in California, but extensive excerpts were posted on a Web site and a full report on the 1,900 pages of testimony aired on ABC's "Primetime

The source of the leaks remains the subject of speculation Jackson's attorney was quick to condemn the leak

Advocates for press access said it would have been better to have an official release so the public would know the source and accuracy of the infor-

mation. University of Santa Clara law professor Gerald Uelman said courts have safe guards against publicity influencguards ing potential ju-

rors, such as questioning them in-tensely about what they have heard He said the leaks might not

have all that much effect.

"We're learning that jurors are not idiots who believe everything they see in the media," said Uel-man, who was part of O.J. Simpson's defense team What the media does with this

material in advance of the trial, I think, seldom illuminates any issues and ultimately it will make the trial of the case more diffi-cult," Uelman added.

The prosecution has not comented on the leaks but Santa Barbara County sheriff's investi-gators have denied they were the source and said they were investigating them as a violation of law.

Report: Firefighters' response time getting longer across the country

BOSTON - Firefighters across the country are arriving at fires later each year, with barely over a third of fire departments nationwide meeting national standards for response time, according to an analysis by The Boston Globe. Nationwide, only 35 percent of departments were

able to reach 90 percent of building fires within six minutes, a standard set in 2001 by the National Fire Protection Association. More than 4,000 people died in fires reached after that time

Among full-time departments, 58 percent were able to meet the six-minute goal in 2002, compared with 75 percent in 1986, when response times began to be collected

"Fire protection in America is a myth," said Vincent Dunn, a retired New York City Deputy fire chief and author of books on fire safety. "These two subjects are the dirty little secrets of the fire ser-The response times outside the center cities are too great, and the personnel responding, inside and outside the center cities, are too few. No one wants to talk about that."

The Globe reviewed public records of 3.3 million building fires collected by the National Fire Incident Reporting System from 20,000 fire departments nationwide

The report may be the first systematic effort to measure fire department performance using response time data, which has been collected since 1986 under the reporting system kept by the U.S. Fire Administration.

The Globe found that more than 4,000 people died in fires - or about five per week - where the firefighters took more than six minutes to respond. The actual number could be higher, because fewer than half of structure fires are reported to the database.

The six-minute standard is a guideline, not law, based on the NFPA's estimates. The association recommends meeting that standard in 90 percent of

The standard has been endorsed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, but has not been embraced by all. The National League of Cities and many small fire departments have argued that the benchmark cannot be made to fit every community

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That dreaded annual rite has

rolled around again: tax time. It's never too early to file your individual taxes. But if you need to get up to speed on your tax preparation, you might look at one of the following Web sites that feature useful tax insights and information

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■ www.irs.gov. Provides insights, advice and resources for individual tay filers

■ www.smartmonev.com/tax Features tax basics, worksheets and feature articles.

■ www.taxhawk.com. Select "tax tips" to access list of top 10 tax tips and more.

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Rice pick a commitment to diplomacy

ll through his first term. President Bush was criticized by Democrats and some foreign leaders for what they claimed was his dis-dain for diplomacy. Bush appointed the much-admired Colin Powell as his secretary of state, but it didn't take long before speculation began that Powell would quit because he had seemingly been relegated to a marginal role in the administration.

In the eternal struggle for the president's ear — and the power that portends it was national security adviser Condo leezza Rice, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney who appeared to have won.

After a bruising round of hearings, the Senate on Wednesday overwhelmingly confirmed Rice to be secretary of state (She was sworn in Friday.)

Most of the attention last week focused on sharp criticism of Rice and opposition to her nomination by Sens. John Kerry of Massachusetts, Barbara Boxer of California and other prominent Democrats.

But here's another thought: Rice's move to the State Department signals something the Democrats should like. Bush has chosen one of the people he trusts most to preside at State, a strong message that he intends to put diplomacy front and center in his second term

State Department, and the department is well served when the secretary has the president's confidence and his ear.

Senate Democrats spent much time scorching Rice about her role in decisions on the Iraq war. Rice acknowledged that there were many decisions on Iraq, "some of which were good, some of which might not have been good." She talked about "les-sons learned," and "an evolution of attitude." She also testified that she didn't always agree with the president, but that her disagreements were expressed privately a wise trait for a chief dinlomat

Those who were seeking a publicly contrite nominee were disappointed. But they shouldn't have been surprised. Rice does not back down from a personal challenge.

Rice faces tough diplomatic challenges across the world — particularly in Iran, North Korea and the Middle East. She will need all that toughness to persuade America's allies to speak with one voice on such critical matters as Iran's nuclear ambi-

At her confirmation hearings, Rice promised that the administration would engage the world in "a conversation, not a monologue," apparently an answer to critics who have said the White House has been too unilateral in its approach.

The rap that the administration has rou tinely spurned diplomacy doesn't really hold up. The administration's push for six-way talks with North Korea over its nuclear programs is one prime example, its push for U.N. action in the Darfur catastrophe another.

Critics are free, of course, to disagree with that. But they should at least take this appointment at face value. Bush has great faith in Condoleezza Rice, and by choosing her to run the State Department he has invested faith in the power of diplomacy.

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React when lawlessness crosses border

BY MARISA TREVINO

s vigilant as our Border Patrol agents are at trying to keep people from entering our country illegally, there is nothing they can do to prevent malicious ideas from crossing the border.

The latest one to join the ranks of easy money to be made by drug dealing or human trafficking is kidnapping someone for ransom.

For us, such a scenario is more common in Hollywood movies or TV dramas than in daily life. In Mexico, where it is estimated that there are 3,000 ransom kidnappings a year, it's a ripped-from-the-headlines kind of story. Unfortunately, the story is repeat-ing itself in the States.

On Jan. 19, on a sunny morning in a quiet family neighborhood south of downtown Dallas, 30-year-old Mexican-American Oscar Sanchez, a new father and the director of business operations for his family's successful restaurant business, was rear-

He was on the phone with his mother when she heard him exit the car and actually greet the guy by name who ran into him. After that, the line went dead and it's been one big nightmare for the Sanchez family The suspected kidnappers, identified as

Josi Filix, a local public school teacher, and Edgar Acevedo, a former restaurant employ-ee of Sanchez, called the family demanding \$3 million in ransom or they would kill Oscar. When the family said they couldn't come up with that kind of money, the ransom was reduced to \$78,000.

The abductors never showed up to claim the money. It was later discovered that Oscar had already been killed and his kidnappers were trying to flee to Mexico. Filix was caught in Chicago trying to board a plane to Guadalajara. Acevedo is suspected to be in Mexico.

The kidnappers must have thought they had a foolproof way to make fast money. It's done in Mexico and those people get away But like many criminals, the kidnappers

weren't too bright. Otherwise, they would have realized they weren't dealing with some Latino family living here illegally who would do anything to keep a low profile.

The Sanchez family may have Mexican

roots, but they are an American success story. Part of their success is being contributing members to the local community. They have no reason to hide in the shadows, or to fear publicity or help from the police.

The kidnappers should have realized that, unlike in Mexico, where law enforcement is

seen as too corrupt to be effective, our police agencies don't suffer from that degree of compromise or shortage of manpower when it comes to tracking down criminals.

And there's the fact that kidnapping can be punishable by life imprisonment or death. In a state renowned for enforcing the death penalty, chances are high that, if con-victed. Acevedo and Filix face the prospect of knowing when their day of reckoning will

The most frustrating part of this story is Acevedo's escape into Mexico. He may feel confident that he won't be extradited to the United States because of Mexico's stand against the death penalty. And maybe he's right. I hope not.

If ever there was a situation calling for the United States to take a stern stand and demand Mexico's cooperation, it is this one. Otherwise, others will try to mimic a crime proven profitable back home, a crime that has turned their country into a private police state where broad-shouldered, unsmiling men wearing dark suits and sunglasses are hired to form human walls.

It is one thing to have to live our lives in fear of terrorists. It's another to live our lives terrorized by opportunists.

Marisa Trevigo, of Rowlett, Texas, is the author of Latina Lista and a contributing columnist with Hispanic Link News Service.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury

ended on his way to work.









STARS AND STRIPES WER SITE: WWW.STRIPES.COM

OPINION

High self-esteem feels good, yet falls flat

oes low self-esteem lie at the root of all human suffering, failure and evil? When I ran my first research study on self-esteem in 1973, that certainly seemed to be the case Psychologists everywhere were convinced that if only we could help people to accept and love themselves more, their problems would gradually vanish and their lives would flourish. They would even treat each

Not surprisingly, California led the way, establishing a task force for exploring ways to boost healthy self-esteem to solve person al and social problems. The task force members - like many of us - were undeterred by the weakness and ambiguity of the evidence suggesting a benefit in boosting self-esteem; we all believed the data would come along in good time.

Then-Assemblyman John Vasconcellos (and many other experts) predicted that self-esteem could solve, or at least help solve, such problems as crime, teen pregnancy, pollution, school failure and underachievement, drug abuse and domestic violence. (Vasconcellos even expressed the hone that higher self-esteem would one day help balance the state budget - a prospect predicated on the observation that people with high self-regard earn more than others and therefore pay more in taxes.) A generation — and many millions of dollars — later. it turns out we may have been mistaken Five years ago, the American Psychological Society commissioned me and several other experts to wade with an open mind through the enormous amount of published research on the subject and to assess the benefits of

Here are some of our disappointing findings. High self-esteem in schoolchildren does not produce better grades. (Actually kids with high self-esteem do have slightly

better grades in most studies, but that's because getting good grades leads to higher self-esteem, not the other way around.) According to a study by Donald Forsyth at Vir-ginia Commonwealth University, college students with mediocre grades who received regular self-esteem strokes from their professors ended up doing worse on final exams than students who were told to suck it up and try harder.

Self-esteem doesn't make adults perform better at their jobs either. Sure, people with high self-esteem rate their own performance better — even declaring themselves smarter and more attractive than their low-self-esteem peers - but neither objective tests nor impartial raters can detect any difference in the quality of work

Likewise, people with high self-esteem think they make better impressions, have stronger friendships and have better romantic lives than other people, but the evidence doesn't support their self-flattering views. If anything, people who love themselves too much sometimes annoy other people by their defensive or know-it-all attitudes.

Self-esteem doesn't predict who will make a good leader, and some work (including that of psychologist Robert Hogan writing in the Harvard Business Review) has found humility rather than self-esteem to be a key trait of successful leaders.

It was widely believed that low self-esteem could be a cause of violence but, in reality, violent individuals, groups and nations think very well of themselves. They turn violent toward others who fail to give them the inflated respect they think they deserve. Nor does high self-esteem deter people from becoming bullies, according to most of the studies that have been done; it is simply untrue that beneath the surface of every obnoxious bully is an unhappy, self-hating child in need of sympathy and praise

High self-esteem doesn't prevent youngsters from cheating or stealing or experiTHE WORLD. THAT MAKES YOU A VERY UNIQUE AND SPECIAL PERSON. YOU BE PROUD OF THAT!



SELF-ESTEEM BUILDING IN THE PAST

menting with drugs and sex. (If anything, kids with high self-esteem may be more willing to try these things at a young age.)

There were a few areas where higher self-esteem seemed to bring some benefits. For instance, people with high self-esteem are generally happier and less depressed than others, though we can't quite prove that high self-esteem prevents depression or causes happiness. Young women with high self-esteem seem less susceptible to eating disorders. In some studies (though not all) people with high self-esteem bounce back from misfortune and trauma faster than oth-

High self-esteem also promotes initiative. People who have it are more likely to speak up in a group, persist in the face of failure, resist other people's advice or pressure and strike up conversations with strangers. Of course, initiative can cut both ways: One study on bullying found that self-esteem was

HOLY COW! WHAT A HANKER ... DON'T WORKY, WE'LL MAKE YOU A SWAN WITH A LOT OF SURGERY AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT A LITTLE BREAST



high among the bullies and among the peowho intervened to resist them. self-esteem marked the victims of bullying.

In short, despite the enthusiastic embrace of self-esteem, we found that it conferred only two benefits: It feels good and it supports initiative. Those are nice, but they are far less than we had once hoped for, and it is very questionable whether they justify the effort and expense that schools, parents and therapists have put into raising self-esteem.

After all these years, I'm sorry to say, my recommendation is this: Forget about self-esteem and concentrate more on self-control and self-discipline.

Recent work suggests this would be good for the individual and good for society and might even be able to fill some of those promises that self-esteem once made but could not keep.

Roy F. Baumeister, a professor in the department of psychology at Florida State University, is the author of "The Cultural Animal." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Religious right pitching a fit inside GOP's big tent

BY ELMER SMITH Philadelphia Daily News

or years, Christian conservatives have backed the GOP for a kiss and a promise. They usually end up with a kiss-off. But that screeching noise from under the GOP's big tent this vear is the sound the religious right makes when it tires of turning the other cheek

In a warning as clear as the Ten Commandments, some of President Bush's most ardent supporters have told him to move the anti-gay-marriage amendment closer to the top of his agenda or they will withdraw their support for his Social Security reform

Leading the charge is the Arlington Group, a newly formed coalition of religious leaders who backed the president in part because he claimed he'd fight for the ban. But Bush didn't even mention it in his inaugural address, nor was it listed in a 10-point legislative agenda Republican congressional lead ers unveiled last week.

The Rev. James Dobson of Focus on the Family, one of the leaders of the Arlington Group, took one look at the GOP agenda and ordered an immediate revision

"If Republicans," Dobson said in an interview on the Focus on the Family Web site "do what they've done in the past, which is say 'thanks so much for putting us in power; now we don't want to talk to you anymore. they will pay a serious price in four or maybe two years."

That's pretty tough talk. Considering the clout they brought to this last presidential election, you'd think they were in a position to demand what they want

You'd be wrong. The president hardly lifted a finger to fight for an anti-gay-marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution in his first four years. He may actually lift a finger this time. But he won't get it done

Nor will conservatives make much headway in the fight to alter Roe v. Wade. Abortion foes who helped elect them last year are getting the same old lip service they get after each election

The crowd who showed up on the National Mall in the annual March for Life last Monday got a canned speech from the president's retreat in Camp David No Republic

can president in 25 years has showed up for the march. "The America of our dreams where every

child is welcomed in law ..." 'may still be some ways away." He pointed out the ban on partial-birth

abortions passed last year. But conservatives know that law won't even make a dent in the more-than-a-million legal abortions a vear performed since Roe v. Wade. It's going to take a lot more to appease the

Arlington Group

In a letter to Karl Rove this month they criticized Bush's "defeatist attitude on an issue that is at the top of our agenda." If Rush is "reluctant to devote the same energy to preserving traditional marriage," the letter said, it would "create outrage with countless voters who stood with him a few weeks ago.

That would be the same kind of outrage black voters and labor leaders have felt when the Democratic Party has abandoned their agendas for a more moderate path. They fire off nasty confidential letters, which they later leak to the press. They threaten mass defections But in the end, they are left to choose be-

tween the gradualism of their own party and the total disregard of the other party. Welcome to the hig tent

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



PAGE 18 STARS AND S

looking for his shad-

ow in Pennsylvania,

Twin record set

NY FREDONIA 157-student freshman class at Fredonia High School includes seven sets of twins enough to earn the district a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records

Guinness has sent the district a certificate, which will be displayed in the high ... school

Only three of the sets attending the Chautauqua County school, about 50 miles west of Buffalo, were born locally.

Naughty festival name

MN GILBERT — Promoting this town's proud history is one thing. Naming the town's festival Gilbert Whorehouse Days is another thing entirely.

A group of angry citizens showed up at a City Council meet-ing to protest the event. The festival's name refers to a time when Gilbert, a remote town of about 2,000 people, was known for its bars, gambling and "working girls" during the U.S. government ban on drinking in the 1920s and

"The damage has been done," resident Fran Marolt said. "This is not a family-oriented activity.'

The event doesn't include any of the activities that gave the festival its name, but City Council members still don't approve.

Organizers say the festival and its name - are meant to bring back a part of history. The festival is planned for two days in July and includes a car show, antique fair and bank robbery re-enactment.

Black-and-white apology

JACKSONVILLE - When fl JACKSUNVILLE five dozen roses didn't work, an estranged husband took out a full-page newspaper ad to ask his wife for forgiveness

"Please believe the words in my letter, they are true and from my heart," read the ad in The Florida Times-Union. "I can only hope you will give me the chance to prove my unending love for you. Life without you is empty and meaning-

Larry, who declined to give his last name, sent the \$17,000 apology to Marianne, his wife of 17 years. 'It was a culmination of things, he told the newspaper. "But I am desperately trying to save our marriage.

A relative told him that Marianne saw the advertisement

"She said my wife read the ad and started crying. But so far I've had no response from her." Larry

Animal electrocution

TX BROWNSVILLE water pump at the Gladys Porter Zoo may have produced an electric current that killed three antelopes, zoo officials said. According to autopsies, the fe-

male West African bushbucks died the weekend of Jan. 8 of acute myocardial necrosis complications of the heart. 'We can't say for sure that this

happened, but we have ruled out as many things as possible," zoo spokeswoman Cynthia Garza-Galvan said in The Brownsville Her-

"The results are consistent with

Lil Bit, the 65-pound potbellied pig, will be doing the same in Lexington. Lexington is famous for

AMERICAN

ROUNDUP

CO DENVER — Officials will

es following allegations that state

workers sold some to unqualified

drivers and illegal immigrants, state revenue officials said. The

commercial licenses are required

to drive tractor-trailers and other

large vehicles. Two driver's li-

cense examiners and a third ner-

Airport tops own record

NV LAS VEGAS — McCarran International Airport host-

ed more than 41.4 million travelers

last year, besting its previous record of 36.9 million set in 2000.

Southwest Airlines was the busiest

carrier at McCarran, serving just

under 13 million passengers, a 10.8

percent increase from the previ-

sutawney Phil could get some competition, from a real hog

Officials in Lexington say their

While groundhog Phil will be

Lil Bit will do the forecasting on

More butter, please

Factory in Lake Forest, III., fills tins

with popcorn, National Popcorn Day

is Jan. 31. Americans on average

eat about 68 quarts a year.

Veronica Lopez at the Popcorn

Hog competition

NC LEXINGTON -

Colorado's

Punx-

License investigation

evamine 124,000 commercial driver's licens-

electrical shock '

son face charges.

ous year.

its pigs, but they're usually smothered in harbeque sauce.

Trail reopened

AZ FLAGSTAFF — A pop-ular trail into the Grand Canyon that was closed because of weather-related rock and land slides has reopened. National Park Service officials are requiring hikers to wear metal spikes on their shoes because of icy conditions. Mule trips on the Bright Angel Trail remain suspended.

Body found after storm

NY NEW YORK 70-year-old cab driver who died in his parked taxi just as a blizzard hit the region went undiscovered for three days as snow piled up over his vehicle.

The man, whose name was not released pending family notification was found in the Gravesend section of Brooklyn, near where he lived, said Sgt. Kevin Ferrell, a po-

lice spokesman. It appeared that he died of a heart attack shortly after parking his car on the street, the same day a winter storm began dumping nearly 18 inches of snow on the

Snowplows pushed banks of snow against his car, blocking the view inside. The man's body was discovered only after above-freezing temperatures melted the snow.

Video games banned

MO JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Matt Blunt banned video games from the state's prisons. a month after a newspaper reported some of Missouri's most violent inmates were allowed to plays games simulating murders, carjackings and the killings of police

officers Blunt, a Republican who took office two weeks ago, called video games "a luxury that inmates should not be allowed to enjoy."

The ban applies to all video games - violent or not.

The Corrections Department already had removed 35 violent video games from the maximum-security Jefferson City Correctional Center as The Kansas City Star prepared to publish a story about the games in early De-

Secession considered

WINHALL — Officials in another community want their town to secede from Vermont and join New Hampshire.

The Winhall Selectboard plans to ask voters about the secession idea on Town Meeting Day on March 1.

Town officials believe property taxes in Vermont are too high and the education funding system is flawed. A successful secession vote would send a message to the Legislature, said Selectboard Chairman Frank Pinto

"It's to make a statement to Montpelier," he said. "We're not

Killington voters approved a protempts to challenge the state's edu-



Bud Khuth, Associated Student Government Tuition protest president at Mt. Hood Community College. ioins members of the Oregon Student Association to rally for lower tuition rates in Salem. Ore.



Leoncio Medina Rodrigues of Mexico City sculpts a Arctic art piece titled "Nautilus" at the Budweiser International Snow Sculpture Championships in Breckenridge, Colo.

posal last year to merge with New Hampshire after repeated at-



Tall tires in Tyler

Jeff Brock unloads a tire for the truck Big Sergeant before a monster truck competition at the Oil Palace in Tyler, Texas.



Bubbly youngster bubbles as part of the El Paso, Texas, school's Science Expo.

Helen Ball Elementary School kindergartner Saul Sarinana blows soap



Cooler heads prevail Robby Woodworth, 10, left, reacts as Kane Rose, 11, dumps snow onto his head after leaving school for the day in Hutchinson, Kan.



With the help of 3-foot-tall letters made from hundreds of carnations and Original approach the Korbel Perfect Proposal Contest, Kristin Dunn of Boise, Idaho, turned the tables on tradition by popping the question to her unsuspecting boyfriend, Tim Szofran. He said yes.

Danger on drawbridge

HALLANDALE BEACH A 79-year-old woman suffered only bruises after a drawbridge opened beneath her as she walked across it, leaving her dangling from the structure.

Helen Koton said she did not hear any warning signals before the bridge began to open with her nearly halfway across. She said she was able to grab the railing.

As the bridge rose to its full height, motorists got out of their cars and told the bridge attendant. who lowered the span after several minutes

"Finally, I came down. When I came down, I fell on my face, so I bruised my forehead and my nose," she told Miami television station WSVN

Fired for smoking

LANSING — Four employees of a health care company have been fired for refusing to take a test to determine whether they smoke cigarettes.

Weyco Inc., a health benefits ad-ministrator based in Okemos. Mich., adopted a policy Jan. 1 that allows employees to be fired if they smoke, even if the smoking happens after business hours or at home

Company founder Howard Weyers has said the anti-smoking rule was designed to shield the firm from high health-care costs. "I don't want to pay for the results of smoking," he said.

The rule led one employee to quit before the policy was adopted. Four others were fired when they balked at the smoking test.

Chief Financial Officer Gary Climes estimated that 18 to 20 of the company's 200 employers were smokers when the policy was announced in 2003. Of those, as many as 14 quit smoking before the policy went into effect. The company offered them beln to kick

Young, white, rich, drunk

NY NEW YORK — Young, white Manhattan residents with household incomes at or above \$50,000 are more likely than average to be excessive drinkers, while nearly half of city residents never drink at all, according to a study by the city health department.

Some 23 percent of adults age 18 to 24 and 20 percent of those 25 to 44 report drinking to excess - defined as more than two drinks a day for men and more than one a day for women, the study said.

By comparison, only 11 percent of those 45 to 64 and 6 percent of those 65 or older say they drink excessively.

In Manhattan, 22 percent of residents describe themselves as excessive drinkers — the highest per-centage among New York's five boroughs and twice the rate recorded in the Bronx, where 11 percent report drinking heavily.

Messages mixed

WA OLYMPIA — The secretary of state's message is being lost in translation.

Washington state residents say the office's Web-based translation software is creating some odd turns of phrase when it takes the English version of information and puts it into Chinese or Korean.

For example, a statement about Secretary of State Sam Reed proposing "statewide mandates to restore public trust" became Swampy weed suggests whole state order recover open trust" in Chinese and "A plant reed proposes national mandate to recover public property trust" in Korean.

A Chinese translation option was removed from the Web site on Jan. 12 and Korean got the heave-ho later without word on whether or when they would be restored.

"It's not a perfect system. It does the best it can," said Matthew Edwards, the agency's webmaster. 'We pulled it because of the complaints. If it's totally confusing, it's worthless."

Alleged activist gunplay

WACO — A longtime Republican Party activist has been indicted on charges of shooting at workers cutting down trees at her Woodway home.

Carolyn Payne Lomax, 63, was indicted on two counts of aggravated assault in a 2004 incident when Asplundh Co. workers were trimming trees around utility lines for utility company Oncor.

Lomay has said no one from the company contacted her before workers "butchered" her trees. Lomax said the workers ap-

peared to be mocking her in Spanish. After repeated pleas, she said, she went inside and grabbed a .22-caliber pistol.
"I went back out in the yard and

I said, 'I have a gun. Get off of my property. You're trespassing,'" Lomax said. "They laughed, and they continued to cut."

Lomay said she fired two or three shots and called police to report the trespassing. No one was injured.

Prostitution arrests

NEW YORK — A prostitution ring that netted roughly \$30 million over the last decade and operated out of five midtown Manhattan apartments was busted with the arrest of 25 people believed to be involved police said Those arrested included several

female prostitutes, as well as a number of men charged with an as sortment of crimes, said Sgt. Kevin Haves.

The escort service was called Julie's of New York City, Hayes

Elderly woman Tasered

said.

SC ROCK HILL — A police officer used a stun gun on a 75-year-old woman who became distraught when she could not locate a sick friend at a nursing home, according to an internal report

Officer Hattie Jean Macon received a verbal warning and was required to attend a Taser retraining course after the investigation found she acted prematurely when she used the 50.000-volt Taser, according to the report. Macon was called to the nursing

home after Margaret Kimbrell refused to leave. Kimbrell has said she was distraught after the staff would not disclose the location of her sick friend, and she became concerned the friend had died.

Kimbrell was charged with tres passing and resisting arrest. Her lawyer said she may sue the department.

			AFR	TS Televisio	n Schedule			
Updated sports listings are available on the first Socieboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mi/ MOMM_MUMEY 31, 2055								
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley "Bearly Awake"	Movie *s "The David Cas-	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	The Beltway Boys	PGA Golf Bob Hope Chrysler	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	sidy Story" (2000) Andrew		Headline News	Fox News Watch	Classic Final Round. From La	Paula's Home Cooking	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (EI)	Kavovit, Malcolm McDowell.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Bulls and Bears	Quinta, Calif. (Taped)	Designers' Challenge	ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI) Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(:43) Movie ***: "Seven" (1995, Suspense) Brad Pitt,	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	Cavuto on Business		Fashion Emergency Life Is Great-Brooke Burke	AFN Evening News
11:00	Stanley Stanley	Morgan Freeman. A killer dis-	(:17) General Hospital	oo minaco	Tolbes		The King of Queens	00
12:00	Dora the Explorer	patches his victims via the Sev- en Deadly Sins.	Headline News	Without a Trace "Coming	Dateline NBC	SportsCenter	That '70s Show (Part 1 of 2)	Without a Trace "Coming
12:30	The Wiggles "Imagination" Bob the Builder	Movie * * "Sister Act" (1992)	Judge Judy Today Maroon 5; Debra Mess-	Home" 24 "Day 3: 11:00 AM - 12:00	Fox and Friends	ļ	Girlfriends Charmed "Chick Flick"	Home" 24 "Day 3: 11:00 AM - 12:00
13:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	TWhoopi Goldberg, A Reno	ing.	Noon"	rox and riterios	College Basketball Georgia	Charmed Chick Flick	Noon"
14:00	Blue's Clues	lounge singer poses as a nun to elude mob assassins		Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	Tech at Maryland. (Taped)	Ally McBeal "Love Is All	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends Lost cat. Funniest Home Videos	(2:55) Movie **** "On	Aladdin "Mudder's Day"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	American Morning		Around" (Part 1 of 2) Any Day Now "Chapter One"	The Tonight Show With Jay
15:00 15:30	Full House	Golden Pond" (1981, Drama)	ChalkZone (EI)	Late Show With David Letter-	American Morning	College Basketball Virginia	1	Late Show With David Letter
16:00	Pokémon	Katharine Hepburn, Henry Fon- da, Jane Fonda.	Mucha Lucha	man	CNN Live Today	Tech at Duke. (Taped)	Third Watch "Spring Forward	man
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! Tristan disappears. Doug (El)	Access Hollywood	Kim Possible (EI) Jeopardy!	Access Hollywood Headline News]		Fall Back" Law & Order "Trade This"	Access Hollywood Headline News
17:00 17:30	The Wild Thornberrys	Access Hollywood	Jeopardy: Headline News	The Late Late Show	-	SportsCenter	Law & Order Trade Inis	The Late Late Show
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Entertainment Tonight	ESPNews		FOX News		The Simpsons	
18:30	Rugrats "New Kid in Town"	Havis & & SE.	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller	Deteller NDC	Callaga Campariate	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
19:00 19:30	Lizzie McGuire Taina "Bad Review"	Movie ** "Enough" (2002, Suspense) Jennifer Lopez. A	60 Minutes	Countdown With Keith Olber-	Dateline NBC	College Gamenight	The Dead Zone Johnny is ha- rassed by a disc jockey.	Countdown With Keith Olber
20:00	Smallville "Vortex"	woman takes her daughter and flees her abusive husband.	Without a Trace *Coming	mann	FOX News	Boxing Arturo Gatti vs. James	Law & Order A makeup mogul	mann
20:30			Home"	Entertainment Studios.com		Leija. (Taped)	is embroiled in scandal.	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Boy Meets World Boy Meets World	(:07) Movie *x "Picture Per- fect" (1997) Jennifer Aniston. A	24 "Day 3: 11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon"	The Hot List Headline News	Studio B With Shepard Smith		American Hot Rod Group is short-handed.	The Hot List Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	single gal pretends to be en- gaged to further her career.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	1st & 10	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement	3.3	The Tonight Show With Jay	1		NFL Live	Seinfeld "The Dinner Party"	· ·
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Jagged Edges"	Movie *** "Of Mice and Men" (1992) John Malkovich.	Leno Late Show-Letterman		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn Pardon the Interruption	Seinfeld "Cigar Store Indian" Blind Date	
23:30	1		Late Snow-Letterman	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY	1 2005	Pardon the Interruption	Dillid Date	
00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	(11:00) Movie * * * "Of Mice and Men" (1992, Drama)	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power			Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		O'Brien	Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00	The Fairly OddParents Rugrats	(:05) Movie ** * "Say Any- thing" (1989) John Cusack. A	Women's College Basketball Georgia at Tennessee. (Live)	Connie the Cow Wheel of Fortune	ABC World News Tonight CBS Evening News	College Basketball Missouri at Kansas. (Live)	The Dead Zone Johnny is ha- rassed by a disc jockey.	Connie the Cow Wheel of Fortune
2:00	Lizzie McGuire	high-school graduate yearns for a lovely valedictorian.	,	Dr. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim	1	Law & Order A makeup mogul	Dr. Phil
2:30	Taina "Bad Review"				Lehrer		is embroiled in scandal.	
3:00 3:30	Smallville "Vortex"	Movie * * "Enough" (2002, Suspense) Jennifer Lopez, A	College Basketball Providence at Pittsburgh. (Live)	Oprah Wintrey	Hannity & Colmes	Winter X-Games From Aspen, Colo.	American Hot Rod Group is short-handed.	Oprah Winfrey
4:00	Boy Meets World	woman takes her daughter and flees her abusive husband.		NBC Nightly News	Headline News		Friends	NBC Nightly News
4:30	Boy Meets World	(:07) Movie *s "Picture Per-		Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report	1	Seinfeld "The Dinner Party"	Judge Judy
5:00 5:30	Sesame Street (EI)	(:07) Movie *x "Picture Per- fect" (1997) Jennifer Aniston. A	Headline News ESPNews	Access Hollywood (:25) Guiding Light	Lou Dobbs Tonight	SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga Caribbean Workout	Access Hollywood (:25) Guiding Light
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	single gal pretends to be en- gaged to further her career.	Headline News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	College Basketball Utah at	Body Shaping	(:13) General Hospital
6:30	Blue's Clues "Blue's Play"	T -	Headline News			BYU. (Taped)	TIPical Mary Ellen	
7:00 7:30	Dragon Tales (EI) Bob the Builder	Access Hollywood	Play With Me Sesame Bear in the Big Blue House	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown		The View	I Spy Animaniacs
8:00	The Wiggles	Entertainment Tonight	Connie the Cow	All Grown Up "River Rats"	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	All Grown Up 'River Rats'
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Movie ++x*Flowers for Al-	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil	Teen Kids News (EI)	Tavis Smiley	Arena Football Teams to Be	30-Minute Meals	Teen Kids News (EI)
9:00 9:30	Stanley Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Movie **: "Flowers for Al- gernon" (2000, Drama) Matthew Modine, Kelli Williams.	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy! Headline News	Nightline Army Newswatch	Arena Football leams to Be Announced, (Taped)	30-Minute Meals Sweet Dreams	Jeopardy! Headline News
10:00	Arthur (EI)	Matthew Modine, Kelli Williams, Ron Bilkin	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews	1	Best for Less	ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow		(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block Smallville "Truth"	71 070 111 5	1	Stripped	Pacific Report Smallville "Truth"
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Stanley	(10:48) Movie *** "Gorillas in the Mist" (1988) Sigourney Weaver, Based on the life of	(:17) General Hospital	Smarrville "Iruth"	The O'Reilly Factor	1	E News The King of Queens	Smailville "Iruth"
12:00	Dora the Explorer	Weaver. Based on the life of anthropologist Dian Fossey.	Headline News	War Stories	FOX News	SportsCenter	That '70s Show (Part 2 of 2)	War Stories
12:30	The Wiggles Bob the Builder	Movie ** "Dangerous	Judge Judy Today Durmot Mulroney; To-	1	Foy and Friends	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	Girlfriends "Bad Timing" Charmed "Ex Libris"	1
13:00 13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)	Minds" (1995) Michelle Pfeiffer.	Today Durmot Mulroney; Io- day's Kitchen.	The Simpsons	rox and Friends	NBA Basketball leams to Be Announced. (Taped)		The Simpsons
14:00	Blue's Clues "Dramatic Play"	A teacher works wonders on a class of educational misfits.		Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	1	Ally McBeal "Love Is All	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI) Funniest Home Videos	(2:52) Movie ** x "Jaws 2"		The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	American Morning	l	Around* (Part 2 of 2) Any Day Now *I'm Not Emo-	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
15:00 15:30	Full House "I'm Not D.J."	(1978, Horror) Roy Scheider.	I Spy Animaniacs	Late Show With David Letter-	American Morning	SportsCenter	Any Day Now "I'm Not Emo- tional"	Late Show With David Letter-
16:00	Pokémon	Another massive shark appears off the coast of Amity	All Grown Up "River Rats"	man Willi David Celler-	CNN Live Today	1	Third Watch "A Thousand	man Willi David Letter
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!		Teen Kids News (EI)	Access Hollywood		NBA Fastbreak	Points of Light"	Access Hollywood
17:00	Doug (EI) The Wild Thornberrys	The Entertainers	Jeopardy! Headline News	Headline News The Late Late Show	1	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Black, White and Blue"	Headline News The Late Late Show
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Behind the Scenes	ESPNews	1	FOX News	Winter X-Games From Aspen,	The Simpsons	
18:30	A Rugrats Passover	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller	1	Colo.	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
19:00 19:30	The Proud Family The Amanda Show	Movie *** "Platoon" (1986) Tom Berenger, Willem	Smallville "Truth"	Countdown With Keith Olber-	DaySide With Linda Vester	NFL Total Access	Star Trek: Enterprise "Strata- gem"	Countdown With Keith Olber-
20:00	Everwood "Fear Itself"	Dafoe. A soldier embarks on a	War Stories	mann	FOX News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	mann
20:30	1	yearlong tour of duty in Vietnam.		Entertainment Studios.com	1	Announced.	tion "Play With Fire"	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Sister, Sister "Christmas" Sister, Sister	(8:49) Movie ** * "Boycott" (2001, Drama) Jeffrey Wright.	The Simpsons	The Hot List Headline News	Studio B With Shepard Smith	1	Top Hat and Tales: Harold Ross and the Making of the	The Hot List Headline News
21:30 22:00	The Cosby Show	The story of the 1955 bus boy- cott in Montgomery, Ala.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	1st & 10	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show With Jay	1		NFL Live	Seinfeld	1
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Into the Fire"	Movie ** "The Three Stooges" (2000) Evan Handler	Leno Late Show-Letterman	4	Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn Pardon the Interruption	Daily Show-Jon Stewart Blind Date	-
23:30	r		Fore 2410M-Ferretiligit			r araort the interruption	Dilliu Date	



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Palmer weds at 75, feels youthful again

At 75, Arnold Palmer feels like a kid again after saying, "I do."



Palmer married Kathleen Gawthrop Wednesday in an in-

timate beach-side ceremony on Oahu, Hawaii's North Shore. "I feel like a 25-year-old," he said Thursday. The ceremony took place in a beach cottage near the Ar-

nold Palmer Course at the Turtle Bay Resort, where the four-time Masters champion was to play at this weekend's Champions Tour event.

"She's a great lady. I've known her for a long time. We've been engaged for some time and dated before that." Palmer said. "She's just very special."

The wedding ceremony, held as the sun set over the Pacific Ocean, was private and small. "The minister, the bride and the groom. That was it," Palmer said.

This is Palmer's second marriage. His wife of 45 years, Winnie, died in 1999.

Berlin film festival presenters named

German actress Franka Potente, Chinese actress Bai Ling and French fashion designer Nino Cerruti will be among those choosing the winner of the Golden Bear top prize at the Berlin International Film Festival next month.

Their names were announced Thursday by organizers of the event, which will be held Feb. 10-20. Roland Emmerich, director of "Independence Day"

and "The Day After Tomorrow," will head the jury.

Among the 21 contenders for the top prize are Wes Anderson's "The Life
Aquatic With Steve Zissou", "Kinsey," about American sex researcher Alfred
Kinsey, and "Paradise Now," a Dutch-German-French co-production that follows 28 hours in the lives of two Palestinian suicide bombers.

Foot infection nearly knocked out Swank

While training for the boxing drama "Million Dollar Baby." Hilary Swank was nearly TKO'd - by a foot infection. Swank nominated for an Oscar as best actress for her performance in the

Clint Eastwood-directed film, says a blister on her foot nearly led to her downfall

After popping the blister, Swank continued her rigorous workouts. But soon she was in intense pain and knew some-thing was wrong. "I couldn't believe the pain," the 30-year-old actress said.

"It was unbelievable and I looked down, there were streaks going to my foot.

"So, I went to the doctor's that second and he looked at me and he said, "This is really serious. And if you would have waited two more hours, you would have been in the hospital for three weeks - and if it gets to your heart, that's it.'

Swank says she was diagnosed with a bacterial infection but never told Eastwood, also her co-star in the movie, because it wouldn't have been in character. Instead, she took several days of medi-

cated rest and then returned to the ring.
"I didn't tell Clint," she says. "The producers don't know because in the end, that's what happens to boxers: They get blisters, they get infected. They have injuries, and they keep pushing through it."

Swank won an Oscar in 2000 for her performance in "Boys Don't Cry."

Tsunami-relief benefit raises \$50,000

A benefit concert by country, gospel and contemporary Christian artists to help victims of the tsunami in South Asia raised more than \$50,000. Christian pop star Michael W. Smith and country singer Kathy Mattea hosted

Wednesday's event — "An Evening for Restoration: Music City Comes Together for Tsunami Relief" — at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. Performers included Steven Curtis Chapman, Marty Roe of Diamond Rio,

CeCe Winans, Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, Steve Cropper, the Oak Ridge Boys, Kirk Whalum, tobyMac, Crystal Gayle, MercyMe, Lee Green-wood, The Whites, Raul Malo, The Crabb Family, Dr. Bobby Jones, Michael Martin Murphey, the Nashville Chamber Orchestra and several Grand Ole Opry stars

Proceeds went to the international relief agency World Vision, which is working in the stricken southern Asian region, concert organizers said Thursday.

Islamic architect designer honored

Prince Karim Aga Khan IV received the fifth Vincent Scully Prize in recognition of his decades of work to re-energize design in the Islamic world and to preserve historic sites

Aga Khan

The Vincent Scully Prize, named for an architect professor at Yale University, was established in 1999 to recognize exemplary practice scholarship or criticism in architecture, historic preservation and urban design. World Bank President James Wolfensohn was among

those in the audience Tuesday night paying tribute to the Aga Khan at a black-tie gala.

The Aga Khan is the 49th hereditary Imam, a spiritual leader of 20 million Ismaili Muslims in Asia and Africa, who traces his lineage directly from the Prophet Muham mad. The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has educated a generation of architects, teachers, planners and researchers, most from the Islamic



Paul Mesner holds a puppet in his studio in Kansas City, Mo. Mesner, 48, produces puppet shows

in Kansas City and across the country. He also is new president of Puppet organization that promotes puppetry in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

PUPPET LOVE

Demand for puppeteers surges as interest grows

BY MARIA SUDEKUM FISHER The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. aul Mesner romps around his studio in shorts and tennis shoes, pointing out the special mouth hinges and weighted eyeballs that go into making the perfect puppet. His specialty is traditional rod puppets, but he also works with hand puppets and mario-Mesner is founder of Paul Mesner Puppets

and is the new president of Puppeteers of America, an organization that promotes puppetry in the United States, Mexico and Canada. He is taking the helm of the 2,000 or so member organiza-

tion at a time when puppets rule. It's not just Bert and Ernie or Miss Piggy and Kermit anymore. Puppets have become major players on

Broadway, starring in such productions as "Avenue Q," "The Lion King" and "Little Shop of Horrors," and are featured in such movies as "Team Ámerica: World Police' College students also have taken note. The Uni-

versity of Hawaii and West Virginia University offer courses in puppetry, and students at the University of Connecticut-Storrs can get bache-

Oniversity of Connecticut-storrs can get bache-lor's and master's degrees in pupper theater. "The whole puppetry thing is incredibly vital right now," Mesner says. "And I can think of four or five universities that are turning out five to six graduate students a year and 10 to 20 undergraduates a year. Then there's Disney, which is training about 500 people to be puppeteers at their theme parks.

John Bell, who teaches a puppetry workshop at Emerson College in Boston and has been a POA member since the 1980s, said Mesner would be good at bridging the gap between the older puppeteers and the younger ones. "He's part of that generation that came up

after Jim Henson and among the people who saw the possibilities with puppets and were part of this real flourishing of puppet theaters in combination with the avant-garde and the political art, and with the new possibilities of televi-sion and film," Bell said.

puppets, they don't say, 'Do you know the Mup-pets' They say, 'Oh, there's some avant-garde

puppet show in a water tank in New York.' It's just part of the consciousness of people now.

While puppetry has been on the move lately, it has been a constant in Mesner's life. Now 48, he made his first puppet as a child by adding strings to the back of his teddy bear. He went on to apprentice with a puppeteer in Nebraska during jun-ior high and high school. And he learned early that puppetry would not be an easy career choice. "You have to be tenacious to make it in the-

" Mesner says. "You get no respect and no glory in puppetry.

. But what matters the most is when kids come up and tell me they loved my show."

Mesner produces puppet shows throughout the United States. His past productions include a two-hour opera collaboration of "The Mika-do," "Strega Nona" and a "Cinderella," in which the heroine heads off to the ball on a Vespa. Shows are often sold out but some of his more ambitious productions, such as last spring's opera collaboration of "The Mikado," didn't draw as many people as Mesner had hoped.

"We generally count on 2,000 people seeing a show. But every time I'm setting the bar a little higher," Mesner said. "We got 4,000 to 'The Mikado,' but we wanted 5,000. Robert Trussell, theater critic for The Kansas

City Star, credits Mesner with adding to the local theater scene.

iocai theater scene.

"For Kansas City, it's unusual because most children's theater has a tendency to be extremely earnest," Trussell said. "They shy away from anything that could conceivably be misinterted. But Paul never worried about that. He always had this quirky sense of humor that made his shows entertaining."

Mesner says he never speaks down to children. "So much of what kids get to watch has ei-ther been dumbed down or grossed down," he says. "I don't do that. I try to write everything for all ages. As new president of POA, Mesner plans to

As new presument of POA, measurer plants to reach out to people interested in moving into puppetry as a career. "Puppeteers of America needs to make itself a little more relevant, especially to the young people entering the field," he says. He would tell students entering puppetry to

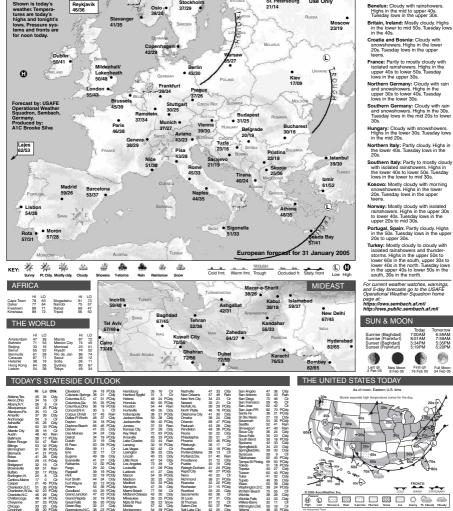
consider starting their own company. Kansas City, which has about 1.5 million residents in the metro area, supports at least four puppet theaters, he says.

"I would tell young puppeteers to make a five to 10-year commitment to a city," Mesner says.
"It's just an underserved market, and think of all those unemployed actors in those cities.

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Horoscope

When was the last time you held someone's hand? It's just one of the friendly, supportive yet deeply intimate ways to take advantage of the Libran lunar **Holiday Mathis**

energy. Hand-holding re minds us how we are all connected like interwoven fingers. While Jupiter is still flying straight, log in a request for something you'd like to receive by the end of the day

TODAY'S RIRTHDAY (January 31). This year

you're the new kid on the block. In April, you gain fresh insights and could start a new job, one that possibly requires you to move into spacious new digs. Or your old job may take you into unmapped territory, with a whole different power structure. Romance starts heating up in September and is sizzling by December.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You are not alone. Someone's watching over you, sending out an SOS for help to arrive exactly when you need it most. Keep your eyes and ears open for that passing stranger who seems to have all the answers

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A sticky situation calls for a gentle touch. This is no time to be the bull in the china shop. The feelings of someone close to you are at stake -tread lightly. Forward momentum

at work helps you score big GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A minor miscalculation with regard to finances may wind up costing you more time and money than anticipated. Be sure to double-check your bottom line before making that big purchase. At least you look fabu-

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You're in uncharted waters when it comes to a love or career matter. Make like the cast of "Lost," and improvise. Be sure you know who vour allies are. Act like vou know what you're doing, even if you don't.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). With all the commotion swirling around you these days, it's easy to lose your sense of place and balance. It helps to frequently check in with yourself, turning your attention inward to how you are feeling

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Survey the landscape of your life

What hills do you need to climb? Where can you rest a bit and catch your breath? Is the climate right to plant new seeds for growth? Draw

your own map, and then, force ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A new

friendship could blossom for you over a cup of coffee or a shared ride in a taxi or elevator. Somewhere out there is that nerfect stranger who knows someone who

knows someone who has what you're looking for.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If your Spidey sense is tingling when you meet someone on the job, there's probably a good reason for it. Careful, that cute new cubicle dweller may be angling for your position or even your boss'. Be polite and on

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A hot financial tip has you

seeing dollar signs everywhere you look. Be sure to consider your sources. There may be more here than is readily apparent. If everything checks out right, grab that brass ring, and don't let go.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Ch-ch-changes are not the goat's specialty, but if the motivation is strong enough, you jump right in. Consider this the universe's way of steering you in the right direction. If vou need a few pointers, consult a Scorpio pal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What is the secret behind that sparkle in your eyes, that extra spring in your step? You'll never tell. A romantic encounter or your passion for a creative endeavor is enough to keep

you whistling while you work

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sometimes, it's best to just cut bait and let your inner fish get away. You can't win every battle or get every call returned when you want it.

Follow a different current, and let it lead you to victory.

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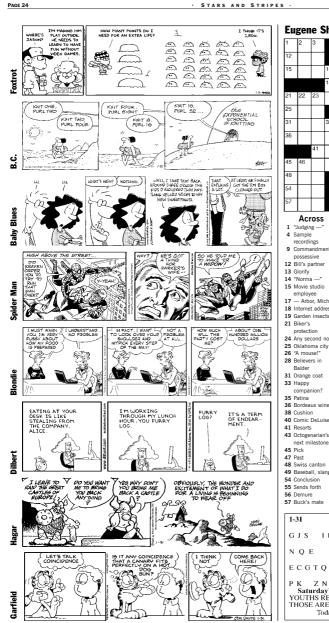












Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN TROUBLED YOUTHS REIMBURSE MONEY OWED, I SUPPOSE THOSE ARE DELINQUENT PAYMENTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals P

No gifts necessary from Iraq tour

Dear Abby: My son, "Adam," came home from Iraq for a two-week visit. He brought with him some T-shirts for his father, his sister and me. They were

last-minute purchases. Now my mother is furious that she didn't get a souvenir from

Our extended family is huge, and Adam didn't have room to bring some thing for everyone. No one else in the family is upset about it. They're just glad he came home ealthy and safe.

My mother complained to her sister, "Irene," and Aunt Irene sent Adam a card in Iraq ordering him to send my mother something. It upset him because he barely knows Aunt Irene.

When I defended my son, Mother said: "I am the grandmother. I should have gotten something." I told her no one expected anything from him.

Is she being unreasonable or am I? Adam is furious that this

nonsense is going on while he's risking his life in Baghdad. I will forward your response to him

— Proud Mom in Ohio
Dear Proud Mom: Please tell Adam that he is in my thoughts and prayers for his safe return from a dangerous tour of duty =

which his grandmother apparently has confused with a sightseeing tour. Your son doesn't owe anyone a gift. His gift to the family will be his safe return

Dear Abby: I mar-

ried my husband, "Greg," a year ago. He's a wonderful man from a wonderful family. His parents are

upper-middle class and have always had money. Greg and I are just starting out, so we don't have a lot. His mother "Ruth." has been generous and thoughtful enough to buy us many of the things we needed to

establish our home. Recently she has started buying me things from very expentaste and I love everything she gets me. I always say thank you, and sometimes send her notes Greg tells me she keeps buying me things because she sees that I

use everything she gives me I want to do something nice for Ruth that will really be special, but our funds are very limited. No one has ever been so nice to me, much less bought me things. and I want her to know how touched and grateful I am. Any suggestions on how to show my appreciation?

- Blessed in North Carolina Dear Blessed: Just one. Take out pen and paper and write your mother-in-law a letter telling her how blessed you feel to have someone so loving and rous as she in your life. A love letter is one of those gifts that keep on giving joy to the recipient. I guarantee, it's some thing she will keep for a lifetime. Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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Now arrange the circled letters to

form the surprise answer, as

one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words WOGAL ©2005 Tribune Me DEGAL

Unscramble these four Jumbles,

MOANAZ KOYDEN

suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: CYCLE

(Answers tomorrow) LARVA KINDLY BANGLE Answer: After an hour-long battle with the marlin, the fisherman was - "REELING"

Blood not true test of paternity

Dear Annie: My

blood type is AB, and my wife's is B. I happened to see our adult son's Red Cross donor card, and it shows that he is type O The good news is that we are all regular donors The bad news is that he cannot be my son.

A little over 40 years ago, around the time "Wayne" was conceived my wife and I had a bit of a rough patch, but that is long behind us now. I always have considered him my son.

I don't know how to raise this issue with my wife. I love her more than life itself and do not want to harm our close relation ship. And, I also don't want to hurt "my" son. At the same time. this knowledge is very troubling to me and may have inheritance implications, etc.

Is there a way to clear the air and let my wife know I will love her no matter what

— Negative Dad Dear Negative: The information on a donor card is not sacro-



sanct, and it's possible there was an error. If you feel the need to discuss this with your wife, you might want to do so without accusations. If you truly mean what you say, we suggest telling her you saw Wayne's donor card and you decided that it didn't matter.

We hope that goes for the "inheritance implications" as well.

Since you consider him your son that is how he should be treated, regardless of his paternity. If he is not yours, your wife might want to consider telling Wayne the truth at some point, in case he needs medical information

Dear Annie: I'm a

23-year-old, newly engaged female. My fiance proposed in October, and I quickly chose my dress, attendants, reception hall, etc. The problem? My cousin, and his wife, "Ashlev," "Brian are mad because I didn't choose Ashley to be in the wedding party and I didn't ask Brian's daughte

to be a flower girl.
They are so furious they won't speak to me. I had asked Brian's sister if her daughter would be a flower girl, and Ashley tried to get my other cousin to pull her daughter out of the wedding because it

would "serve me right."

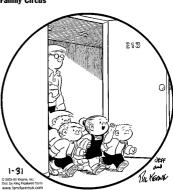
I've been told to cut them off the guest list, but it saddens me to think some of my own family won't show up. What should I do?

New Bride-To-Be Dear Bride-To-Be: Asking the daughter of one cousin to be a flower girl, but not the other, can understandably cause ruffled feathers. Nonetheless, Brian and Ashley have no business making demands regarding your atten-dants, and they should be ignored. If Brian and Ashley don't at-

tend, fine. If they do show up, be as gracious as possible and say nothing more about it.

Annie's Malibox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmalibox/ecomeast.net, or write to: Annie's Malibox, c/o Creators Syndi-date. 577° W. Century Blvd., Sulter 80, Los Angeles, CA 50045.

Family Circus

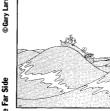


"Grandma! Here comes the pitter-patter of little feet!"

GRAFFITI 1/31

Dennis 4





ere comes another big one. Roy, and



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Monday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Golf: Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, final round (dld). AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.—College basketball: Georgia Tech at Maryland (dld). AFN-Sports, 3:30 p.m.—College basketball: Virginia Tech at Duke (dld). Virginia Tech at Duke (dld).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—Boxing: HBO World
Championship Boxing, Arturo Gatti (38-6) vs.
Jesse James Leija (47-6-2) for WBC super
lightweioht championship.

Tuesday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Missouri at Kansas. AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Georgia women at Tennessee. AFN-Radio, 2 a.m.—NBA: Indiana at Phila-

eipnia. **AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.**—Winter X Games. **AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.**—College basketball: AFN-Auantic, 3 a.m.—College basketball: Providence at Pittsburgh. AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.—Winter X Games. AFN-Sports, 6 a.m.—College basketball: Utah at Brigham Young. AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Bowling: PBA Birmingham Open (Id).

am upen (did).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—NBA: Teams TBD (did).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—Winter X Games (did).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—NBA: Houston at diami (did).

Wednesday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Il-linois at Michigan St. AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—College basketball: Florida at Mississippi St.

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Pro football

NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 8 St. Louis 27, Seathle 20 N.Y. Jets 20, San Diego 17, OT Sunday, Jan. 9 Indianapolis 49, Derive 27 Minnesota 31, Green Bay 27 Divisional Playoffs

Divisional Playofts Saturday, Jan. 15 Pittsburgh 20, NY. 1961 71, OT Atlanta 47, St. Louis 17 Philadelphia Mardy, Jan. 16 Philadelphia Jandy, Jan. 26 New England 20, Indianapolis 3 Conference Champions Sunday, Jan. 23 Philadelphia 27, Atlanta 10 New England 41, Pittsburgh 27 New England 41, Pittsburgh 27 Sunday, Jan. 23 Sunday, Jan. 23 Sunday, Feb. 6 Jacksonville, Fla.

Jacksonville, Fla. Philadelphia vs. New England

Tennis

Australian Open

Saturday At Melbourne Park Melbourne, Australia Purse: \$14.5 million (Grand Slam) Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Men

Championship
Marat Safin (4), Russia, def. Lleyton Hewitt
(3), Australia, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

(3), Australia, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Doubles
Mixed
Championship
Scott Draper and Samantha Stosur, Australia, def. Kevin Uliyett, Zimbabwe, and Liezel
Huber (4), South Africa, 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (6).

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

Saturday

1. Illinois (21-0) beat Minnesota 89-66.
Next: at No. 15 Michigan State, Tuesday.

2. Duke (15-1) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia Tech. Sunday. 3. North Carolina (17-2) beat Virginia 110-76. Next: vs. North Carolina State, Thurs-

day. 4. Syracuse (20-2) lost to No. 20 Pittsburgh

110-76. Next vx. North Carolina State, Tittler A. Synacuse Co. 70. Just 10 No. 20 Pittiburgh 76. White Progress Co. 70. Just 10 No. 20 Pittiburgh 76. White Progress Co. 70. Just 10 No. 20 Pittiburgh 76. White Progress Co. 70. Just 10 North 76. Ju

23. Iowa (15-5) beat Indiana 72-57. Next: vs. No. 15 Michigan State, Saturday. 24. Mississippi State (16-5) lost to LSU 69-62. Next: vs. Florida, Tuesday. 25. Utah (17-3) did not play. Next: at Brigham Young, Monday.

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Marymouth Va. 78, CT

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Landon, S. & Webber, S. W.
Landon, S. Landon, S. W.
Landon, S. L

AP Women's Top 25 fared

Saturday

1. Duke (19-2) did not play. Next: at No. 25
North Carolina State, Sunday.
2. LSU (18-1) did not play. Next: vs. Auburn,
Sunday.
3. Ohio State (20-2) did not play. Next: at II-J. Offic State (40 -) linois, Sunday, 4. Stanford (19-2) beat Washington State 69-56. Next: vs. Arizona, Thursday.

5. Tennessee (15-3) did not play. vs. No. 19 Georgia, Monday. Georgia, Monday. 6. Notre Dame (17-3) did not play. Next: at No. 9 Connecticut, Sunday. 7. Baylor (15-3) beat Oklahoma State 67-65. Next: vs. No. 16 kansas State, Wednesday. next: vs. no. 1b Kansas state, Wednesday. 8. Rutgers (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. West Virginia, Sunday. 9. Connecticut (13-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 6 Notre Dame, Sunday. 10. Minnesota (16-3) did not play. Next: at No. 22 Penn State, Sunday.
11. Michigan State (17-3) did not play. Next: at Indiana, Sunday.
12. North Condin. Next at Indiana, Sorday, 1743 did not play, wext at Indiana, Sorday, 10d not play, Next at Georgia Tech, Sunday, 10d not play, Next at Georgia Tech, Sunday, 114, Boston College (15-3) deat Pittsburgh 114, Boston College (15-3) beat Pittsburgh 125, Next at No. Novro Dame, Wednesday, vs. Tecas A&M, Wednesday, vs. Tecas A&M, Wednesday, 170, Petra M, Park Colorada, 170, Petra M, Park Colorada, 170, Petra M, Park Colorada, 171, Petra M, Park Colorada, 17, DePaul (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. South Florida, Sunday.
18, lows State (16-2) beat Oklahoma 73-60. Next: vs. Oborado, Wednesday. Next: at No. 5 Tennessée, Monday.
20, Maryland (14-5) beat Javisona 84-70, OT. Next: vs. Georgia Tech. Thursday.
vs. Vieginia, Monday.
21, Penn State (12-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Minnessch, Sunday. 22. Penn State (12-7) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Minnesota, Sunday.
23. Vanderbilt (14-5) did not play. Next: vs. Florida, Sunday.
24. Temple (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Xavier, Sunday.
25. North Carolina State (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina State (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 Duke, Sunday.

Saturday's women's scores

Saturday's women's scores
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TANK McNamara





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Tamarisk Country Club; 7,603 yards

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FG Collive

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Brent Geiberger
Jeff Maggert
Jeff Maggert
Paul Goydos
Ben Goster
Ben Goster
Kevin Stadler
Shaun Michee
Aaron Baddeler
Shaun Michee
Aaron Baddeler
Billy Andrade
Jason Allred
Jason Allred
Harrison Frazar
Frank Lickliter II
Jay Williamson
Chris DilMarco
Ben Curtis
Ben Curtis
Geoff Oglivy
Faller
Geoff Oglivy
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Fall 68-70-70-67-275 -13 69-68-67-71-275 -13 68-70-67-70-275 -13 68-70-67-70-275 -13 73-66-68-68-275 -13 70-68-64-73-275 -13 72-70-69-64-275 -13 73-68-67-68-276 -12 69-68-68-70-275 -12 69-66-72-69-276 -12 69-68-72-67-276 -12 69-68-72-67-276 -12

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Champions Turtle Bay Saturday At The Palmer Course Kahuku, Hawaii Purse: \$1.5 million Yardage: 7,044; Par 72 (36-36) Second Round

Yardag

Hale Irwin

Allen Doyle

Dana Quigley

Keith Fergus

Gil Morgan

Don Pooley

Larry Nelson

Jerry Pate

Don Rees

Tom McKnight

Wayne Levi

Jim Ahern

Tom Watson

John Harris

D.A. Weibring

John Jacobs 71-67-138 70-68-138 70-68-138 69-69-138 71-68-139 70-69-139 70-69-139 70-69-139 D.A. Weibring
John Jacobs
Hugh Balocchi
Bruce Lietzke
Jay Sigel
R.W. Eaks
Morris Hatalsky
Jim Thorpe
Tom Jenkins 70-69-139 69-70-139 69-70-139 69-70-139 69-70-139 69-70-139 71-69-140 Walter Hall Brad Bryant Gary Player Mike Reid Bobby Wadkins Bob Gilder Mike San Filippo Tom Herzan Graham Marsh Mark McNulty John Ross Tom Purtzer -141 Gary McCord Ed Flori Bruce Fleisher Ron Streck Leonard Thompson Pat McGowan Bruce Summerhays Bruce Summerhay Mike Ferguson Rodger Davis Bob Eastwood John Fought Pete Oakley Jim Colbert Dave Barr Isao Aoki David Eger Dave EiChelberger Norm Jarvis

Lonnie Nielsen Vicente Fernandez Jimmy Powell Doug Tewell Hajime Meshlai Fuzzy Zoeller Mark Johnson

Larry Ziegler Daniel Nishimoto

Howard Twitty Mike McCullo Gary Robison Hubert Green

70-69-67-69-275 -13

67-66-133 -11 67-68-135 -9 68-68-136 -8 67-69-136 -8 67-69-136 -8 70-67-137 -7 71-67-138 -6

70-73-143 70-73-143 70-73-144 72-72-144 72-72-144 73-73-144 73-73-146 73-73-146 69-77-146 69-77-146 76-71-147 75-72-147 74-73-147 +1 +2 +2 +3 +3 +3 71-76-147 76-72-148 76-72-148 74-74-149 72-77-149 72-77-149 72-77-149 75-74-150 75-75-150 74-77-151

77-75-152 +8 71-81-152 +8 80-73-153 +9 80-75-155 +11 76-79-155 +11 79-77-156 +12 76-82-158 +14 82-77-159 +15 79-81-160 +16 Lee Trevino'
Dick McClean
Larry Stubblefield
Rocky Thompson
Brad Schmierer
DeWitt Weaver
Arnold Palmer
Walter Zembriski

Caltex Masters

Sunday
At Laguna National Golf and Country Club,
Masters Course
Singapore
Purse: \$1 million
Yardage: 7,207; Par: 72

Nick Dougherty, England C. Montgömerie, Scotland M. Lafeber, Netherlands Thomas Bjorn, Denmark Robert Coles, England Marcus Fraser, Australia 71-70-68-280 Marcus Fraser, Australia Gregory Havret, France Peter Lawrie, Ireland Llang Wenchong, China Lee Westwood, England Peter Hedblom, Sweden Mo Joong-kyung, S. Korea Peter Senior, Australia Jamie Donaldson, Wales Kim Felton, Australia 70-70-69-71 — 280 74-72-68-66 — 280 74-72-68-66-280 70-68-71-71-280 70-73-70-67-280 71-69-66-75-281 72-72-68-70-282 72-71-70-69-282 70-68-72-73-283 70-73-69-71-283 Kim Felton, Australia
J. Kingston, South Africa
Paul Marantz, Australia
Soren Hansen, Denmark
Graeme McDowell, Irelan
Angelo Que, Philippines
Also 73-73-68-69-283 73-68-71-71-283

Grainen MozonMangle Que, Philippines
Andres Hansen, Demmark
Jennich States, E. Michaels, United States Peter O'Malley, Australia Costantino Rocca, Italy G. Norquist, United States Ted Oh, South Korea 73-71-74-75-293

Skiing

World Alpine Championships

Sunday At Santa Caterina Valfurva, Italy Women Super-G 1. Anja Paerson, Sweden, 1 minute, 17.64

1. Anja Paerson, Sweden, 1764

1. Control and Control

Janette Hargin, Sweden, 1:19.51.
 Magda Mattel, France, 1:19.53.

High school sports

High school sports

Boys basketall

Management of the continue of the continue

171-1, Paul Hurley (Wies); 2, Brian Taylor (Pat); 3, K.C. Brown (Gies); 4, Jonathan Echev-erria (Han).

Office) 2. Lius Critz (dain); 2. John Gudley, 3. John Gudley, 5. John Gudley,

3, Johnathanstimmel (LC); 4, Milargo Wilson (Lake), 130-1, Johnathan Scott (LC); 2, Craig Campbell (Lake); 3, Rob McClure (LC); 4, Karlis Flemming (Lake), 135-1, Sean Wiltton (Lake); 2, Kolton Mc-Mahon (ASL); 3, Bran Willoughby (ASL); 4, Chris Brew (MH), 140-1, Haden Baker (Lake); 2, Astlk Jagtjani (KSL); 4, Matt Kesler (LC); 4, Grant Corkilis (MH). 145-1, Kyle Lucas (Alc); 2, Ian Lange (MH); 3, Randy Yerkes (Lake); 4, Brandon Milhol-

3, Bandy Yerkes (Lake); 4, Brandon Mino-inand (ASL).
152-1, Cole McClain (MH); 2, Yvan Azucena (CC); 3, Jereniah Walker (Lake); 4, CJ. Wis-mer (MH).
169-1, Henry Marsh (ASL); 4, Géne Reader (LG). 1, Henry Marsh (ASL); 4, Géne Reader (LG). 3, Travis Howland (Lake); 4, Edwin Val-ertin (Lake).

(Alc); 3, Travis Howland (Lake); 4, Edwin Val-entin (Lake), 189-1, Mike Gamberton (MH); 2, David Mar-cotte (LC); 3, Ruben Sarino (Lake), 215-1, Alex Lazardis (ASL); 2, Aaron Petters (Lake); 3, Ivan Linatoc (LC); 4, Pedro Rodrígu-ez (MH).

Claser 13, Iwan Linaton (LCC, A Pedro Rodrigue)
robetworthy Most pins, quickest
time-shallad ASL) 3 pins in 324
time shallad ASL
timeshallad ASL
timeshallad ASL
timeshallad ASL
timeshallad (ASSL)
times Napi). 135-1, Kyle Stammer (Vicz); 2, Steve Melin Napi): 3, Pablo Gadbois (Napi). Napl); 3, Pablo Gadbois (Napl). 140-1, Michael Monaco (Napl); 2, Shane linton (Vicz); 3, Zach Main (Napl); 4, Parks Napl). 145-1, Gary King (Vicz); 2, Mike Lafuente Napl); 3, Dante Rankin (Avi); 4, Aaron Bar-(Napl); 3, Dante Rankin (Avi); 4, Aaron Bar-nes (Napl), 152-1, Mike Aque (Napl); 2, Brandon Walk-er (Napl); 3, Soci (Avi); 4, Paul Stuart (Napl), 160-1, Guadalupe Flores (Napl); 2, Jordan Rigor (Sig); 3, Yi (AOSR); 4, Malik Amandia (Avi).

(AVI). 171-1, Matt Briegel (Napl); 2, Nick Leon (AvI); 3, Noah Going (Napl); 4, David Torre-grossa (AOSR). 189-1, Todd Thom (Napl); 2, Mitch Marziali (Napl) (Nap)): Daniello Stewart (Nap)): 2, Joe 215-1, Daniello Stewart (Nap)): 2, Joe Wiehe (Vicz): 3, Jon Nelson (Avi): 2, Andrew 275-1, Brian Aldridge (Avi): 2, Andrew Noteworthy-Unbeatens Monaco of Naples, a defending European champion, and Riggo of Vicenza wrestled an exhibition match won by Monaco 2-1 in double-overtime.

Military basketball

Southern region men Ansbach 89, Hohenfels 76 (Saturday at Hohenfels) Halftime-Unavailable.

Top scorers-Ansb: Kareem Jackson 27, La-arren Wakefield 22; Hoh: Donnavan Bonhonme 25.

Southern Region women

Hohenfels 2, Ansbach 0

(Forfelt Saturday at Hohenfels)

Deals

Saturday transactions

BASEBALL
American League
NEW YORK YANKES—Announced an extension of their working agreement with Trenton of the Eastern League through the 2008 season.

renton of the Eastern League 1908 Season. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association NBA—Fined Detroit Pistons coach Larry grown \$55,000 for criticizing officials after a game Jan. 24 against Minnesota. "ATANTA HAWIXS—Placed G Kenny Ander-son on the injured list. Activated G Royal son on the injured list. Activated (A Boyal Wey from the injured list. Wey from the injured list. Posely on the injured list. Posely on the injured list. Activated G Antion in the injured list. Activated G Antion (A Boyal Carlotte) (A Boya

Without Sosa, Cubs might long for offense

BY NANCY ARMOUR The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs got rid of one problem by finding a taker for unhappy slugger Sammy Sosa.

Now they're faced with another, potentially bigger predicament.

Though Sosa's production has dropped, he was still a key piece of Chicago's offense with 35 homers and 80 RBIs last season Throw in departed free agent Moises Alou, and the Cubs lose a combined 74 home runs and 186 RBIs.

"You really are not going to replace him," center fielder Corey Patterson said Saturday. "He's one of the superstars of the game. When you're talking about superstars of the game, it's a very, very limited number

The Cubs are just a few steps away from trading Sosa to the Baltimore Orioles for second baseman Jerry Hairston Jr. and two prospects. The deal isn't done yet, but the teams planned to send it to Commissioner Bud Selig on Monday for approval, necessary because more than \$1 million in cash is involved

Sosa and the Orioles players still have to take physicals, probably Tuesday, and the deal could be finalized as early as Wednes-

The Cubs have agreed to pay a substantial part of Sosa's \$17 million salary this season. Sosa has agreed to waive provisions in his contract that call for an \$18 million option in 2006 to be guaranteed if he is traded, and for a 2007 club option to be added at \$19 million with a \$4.5 million buyout. That must be approved by the players' association, which already has said that won't be an obstacle.

Sosa isn't asking for an extension, either, meaning he'd be eligible for free agency after the season unless the Orioles propose

"I'm not surprised. I don't think anyone's surprised," outfielder Todd Hollandsworth "I think it's going to provide everyone with the fresh start they were hoping for.

Sosa, 36, isn't the feared hitter he was in 1998, when his home run duel with Mark McGwire energized baseball. His average has dropped steadily since 2001, from .328 to .288 to .279 to .253 last season. He's hit 75 homers the past two years - nine more than the 66 he had in 1998 alone

But there are plenty of players who would gladly take Sosa's numbers. He's hit 30 or more home runs for 10 straight seasons, and he's seventh on the all-time list with 574. He and Alou gave the Cubs four 30-homer players, fearsome production that few other teams came close to match-

The Cubs do return Aramis Ramirez (.318, 36 homers and 103 RBIs) and Derek Lee (.278, 32, 98), as well as Patterson (24 homers, 72 RBIs and 32 steals). They'll have Nomar Garciaparra for a full season, and get back Todd Hollandsworth, who was hitting a blistering .318 when he went down with an injury that cost him the second half of the season.

Cubs will likely look like a much different team this season.

"Last year, we didn't really create of-fense, we just smashed the ball," Hollandsworth said. "We were capable of beating Roger Clemens, the best pitcher in the game, any day of the week. We were also capable of losing to the worst team because we relied on the long ball. I think that's what you saw happen the last week of the season. We got cold at the wrong time. We couldn't generate offense.

The Cubs had a monumental collapse down the stretch, losing seven of their last nine to blow a 11/2-game lead in the NL wild-card race and cost themselves a spot in the playoffs. Chicago managed just 22 runs in the seven losses. Now the Cubs will have to concentrate

more on manufacturing runs: laying down bunts, stealing bases, moving runners into scoring position

"We're going to go with pitching, defense and create some offense," Hollandsworth said, "Maybe we're not as strong offensively but we're pretty darn good

The bright spot is that Chicago's rotation, if healthy, will again be one of the best in the majors. Greg Maddux shows no sign of slowing down, and Carlos Zambrano has emerged as one of the game's best young pitchers, going 16-8 with a 2.75 ERA and 188 strikeouts last year

Kerry Wood and Mark Prior should be back to their old selves after being hampered by injuries last year, and Glendon



Chicago's Sammy Sosa is close to being traded to the Baltimore Orioles, leaving the Cubs a big offensive void to fill.

Rusch will be given the chance to win the fifth spot after going 6-2 with a 3.47 ERA in enot duty last season

'We've got great players on our team at each position, a great coaching staff. We definitely have the pitching," Patterson said. "Will it be harder without Sammy? Definitely so. But I think we can still win.

Boston: City reveling in success

BOSTON, FROM BACK PAGE

Crimson quarterback Ryan Fitzgerald went to the postseason Hula Bowl and Shrine all-star games and is getting attention from NFL scouts "It's a tough town; we have to

keep up with the Joneses," jokes Harvard head football coach Tim Even the ITMass men's basket-

ball team had a moment of glory in December, upsetting defending national champion and Interstate 91 rival Connecticut, then ranked No. 7 in the country.

If only the Celtics, who have struggled since their heyday in the 1980s, could get in on the act.

Boston and its sports teams have always seemed to be in the shadow of New York, despite the 16 basketball titles held by the Celtics, the Bruins' five Stanley Cups, and even the Patriots two Super Rowl wins Only the Red Sox World Series victory seemed to ease that.

"It's changed the way people think of their city," said Brian Perry, wearing a Red Sox cap. "We've worried that we're not a world-class city, but especially since the Red Sox won, we're not quite as down on ourselves But O'Nan says it was the Patri-

ots who revived the city's dreams for the Red Sox.

"The Red Sox are THE team in Boston There's the Red Soy and there's everything else," former



Confetti drops as Boston Red Sox fans cheer on players during a rally in Boston to celebrate the team's World Series championship in October.

Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez now a New York Met — said this week. "I hope this can help get them (the Patriots) the same respect as the Red Sox because

they deserve that." Tight end Christian Fauria, who played seven seasons with the Seattle Seahawks and is now in his third season with New England, acknowledges the populari-ty of the Red Sox. But he says life is pretty good in Boston for a Pa-

This is what I always thought football was going to be like," he said Thursday as the team got back to Super Bowl preparations.

"I thought this is where the fans are into it. There's a lot of good stuff going on, a great sports city, so this is what I expected it to be oorts writers Ronald Blum, Jimmy and Howard Ulman contributed to

Mets catcher Piazza marries ex-Playmate, 'Baywatch' star

MIAMI - Mets catcher Mike Piazza married former Playboy Playmate and "Baywatch" star Alicia Rickter in a candlelight church ceremony.

Sports briefs

With former Mets pitcher Al Leiter and Detroit Tigers catcher Ivan Rodriguez baseball stars

among

in attendance. Piazza and Rickter took their vows at St. Jude's Catholic Church on Saturday before boarding a yacht to a lavish reception at nearby Fisher Island.

The 36-year-old catcher's best man was his brother Tony.

Auxiliary Bishop Ignatius Catanello of the Diocese of Brooklyn in New York performed the ceremony that was attended by about 120 people. He said Piazza was nervous "like a regular groom, but he's OK."

Rickter, 32, wore a white satin Vera Wang gown and was joined by five bridesmaids, including maid of honor Angelica Bridges. a "Baywatch" co-star, and Playboy Playmates Brande Roderick and Lisa Dergan.

Player implicated in German soccer-fixing scandal

BERLIN - The first soccer player was implicated in Germany's widening game-fixing scandal Sunday, and prosecutors charged three men arrested in the case with fraud.

A referee also was replaced for a first-division game Sunday after his name surfaced during the investigation. The German Soccer Federation called the move "purely precautionary" and said it did not suspect Juergen

Jansen of fixing games. Michael Born, the busines manager of third-division SC Paderborn, confirmed to The Associated Press his team had informed the federation that one of its players was involved with the Croatian betting group allegedly be-

hind the fixing.
Club president Wilfried Finke told Sportbild magazine his player was given money for Pader born's 4-2 German Cup upset of Bundesliga team Hamburger SV in August. He did not identify the

The game was one of at least four reported to have been rigged.

The investigation centers on referee Robert Hovzer, who is accused of accepting bribes from the betting group. Hoyzer refereed the Paderborn-Hamburg game, which was decided on two controversial penalty kicks.

After Hoyzer was questioned by authorities, police on Friday raided in four places in Berlin, including a cafe where the referee reportedly met with gamblers and bookmakers. Four men were arrested and three charged

The scandal came to light when four referees tipped off authorities about possibly suspicious ac-tivities by Hoyzer. The Sueddeut-sche Zeitung newspaper reported last week that Hoyzer admitted receiving money for rigging three games and also implicated players and other referees. He annarently has said no first division games were involved.

Greek sprinters testify at hearing

ATHENS, Greece - Greek sprinters Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou testified at a hearing Sunday regarding accusations they intentionally missed a drug test before the Athens Olympics.

Christos Tzekos, the sprinters' former coach, also testified before the sports tribunal for more than 11/2 hours during the last day of hearings.

The three presented evidence and denied accusations by track and field's governing body, said Costas Panagopoulos, head of the five-member panel. He estimated a ruling by the end of February.

The sprinters could face a ban of up to two years if found guilty. Kenteris was the 2000 Olympic gold medalist in the 200 meters

Thanou won the silver medal in the women's 100.

Kenteris and Thanou withdrew from the games in August after missing doping tests at the Olym-pic Village on the eve of the opening ceremony. The two spent four days in a hospital, contending they were injured in a motorcycle

The tribunal also is examining accusations that Kenteris and Th anou evaded tests in Israel and Chicago before the Olympics.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference										
Atlantic Division										
	W L Pct GB									
Boston	21	23	.477	-						
Philadelphia	20	23	.465	1/2						
New York	18	25	.419	21/2						
New Jersey	18	26	.409	3						
Toronto	18	26	.409	3						
Southeast D	Pivis	ion								
Miami	32	13	.711	-						
Washington	26	17	.605	5						
Orlando	24	19	.558							
Charlotte	9	31	.225	201/2						
Atlanta	8	34	.190	221/2						
Central Di	visio	n								
Cleveland	25	17	.595	-						
Detroit	26	18	.591	-						
Chicago	22	20	.524	3						
Indiana	20	22	.476	5						
Milwaukee	15	26	.366	91/2						
Western Conference										

Western Conference									
Southwest Division									
W L Pct GB									
San Antonio	36	10	.783	-					
Dallas	28	14	.667	6					
Memphis	25		.556	101/2					
Houston	24	20	.545	11					
New Orleans	8	35	.186	261/2					
Northwest I									
Seattle	30	12	.714	-					
Minnesota	24	19	.558	61/2					
Denver	19	25	.432	12					
Portland	17	25	.405	13					
Utah	.15	30	.333	161/2					
Pacific Di									
Phoenix		10	.778	_					
Sacramento	29	13	.690	41/2					
L.A. Lakers	22		.537	11					
L.A. Clippers	21	23	.477	131/2					
Golden State	12	32	.273	221/2					
Saturday's games									
Orlando 103, Washingt	on s	11							
Detroit 91, New York 6	1								
Memphis 84, Atlanta 8									

Memphis 84, Atlanta 83 Denver 95, Indiana 88 Boston 101, Chicago 97 San Antonio 93, New Orleans 83 Philadelphia 93, Dallas 89 New Jersey 99, Utah 82 L.A. Clippers 96, Golden State 85 Sunday's games Houston at Miami Sacramento at Minesota

Monday's g Houston at Boston Indiana at Philadelphia

Indiana at Philadelphia Orlando at Atlanta Memphis at New Orleans San Antonio at Seattle New York at L.A. Clippers Tuesday's games Detroit at Washington hicago at New Jersey hoenix at Memphis Minnesota at Milv Miami at Dallas Charlotte at Utah

Saturday Magic 103, Wizards 97

ORLANDO - Hill 10-16 7-10 27, Howard 3-1 9 13, Battle 2-4 0-0 4, Christle 5-12 6-6 16 GRANDO — VIII. 10.1 G. 10.7 Hoyand 7.1 Hoyan

Di-4---- 01 V-1-1-- C1

ristolis 31, Milicus 01
NEW YORK - Ariza 3-7 0-0 6, T.Thomas 3-1
0-0 6, Mohammed 3-7 0-1 6, Crawford 5-14 4-
14, Marbury 5-9 0-0 10, Brewer 3-8 1-2 I
Sweetney 2-6 3-4 7, Baker 1-1 0-0 2, J.Wil
iams 0-2 0-2 0, Sundov 1-5 0-0 2, Norris 0-2 0-
0. Totals 26-72 8-15 61.
DETROIT - Prince 0-3 5-6 5, R.Wallace 4-
0-0 9, B, Wallace 4-9 0-0 8, Hamilton 7-16 4-
18. Billups 7-13 1-1 16. Arrovo 2-4 0-0
McDvess 7-10 2-3 16, Hunter 2-4 0-0 5, Dupre
2-8 2-4 6. Milicic 1-2 2-2 4. Totals 36-76 16-2

18 17 13 13-61 20 19 27 25-91

Grizzlies 84, Hawks 83 ATLANTA - Walker 7:19 1-41, Harrington 5-11 7-81 E. Rezele 6-30-90. Lue 7:11 2-217. Harrington 5-11 7-81 E. Rezele 6-30-90. Lue 7:11 2-217. GO 90-90. Delaw 7-11 2-217. Harrington 6-90-90. Delaw 7-90-90. Delaw 1-40-92. Totals 31-73 1-19 80. HAMPHERS - Battler 6-91-215, Swift 2-80-90. Machine 10-21 6-9 21, Walker 10-21 23 14-83 Marker 10-21

S. Johns J. S. P. Munipine 9 G. 20 G. Totals Allanta 19 77 23 14—83 Memphis 27 19 18 20—84 Memphis 27 19 18 20—84 Memphis 27 19 18 20—84 Memphis 19 Herrich 19 Herrich 19 Herrich 19 Herrich 20 Herric fensive Three Second, Walker, Memphis fensive Three Second. A—18,119. (18,119)

Nets 99, Jazz 82

NEW JESSEP - Buford 5-11 0-0 10, Krstic 6-10-1-2 13, Jas. Collins 3-4-4-6 10, Kidd 5-10 5-8 19, Carter 11-20-1-4 30, Smith 2-51-2, Fin-omass 1-4-2-4, Vagamb 3-5-0-6, Best 1-1-0-0 UTAH - Kirlienko 2-7-3-4-7, Boozer 4-12-0-8, Borchardt 2-2-3-37, Lopez 1-70-0-2, Giricek 2-8-1-2, 6, Elsey 4-11-0-8, Barchardt 2-6-2-6, Horpring 3-61-28, Bell 7-14 2-2-20, Humpfires 2-4-0-6, Totals 3-2-8

New Jersey Utah 29 34 19 17-99 Inree-Point Goals—New Jersey 9-13 (Carter 5-5, Kidd 4-6, Buford 0-1, Thomas 0-1), Utah 6-13 (Bell 4-6, Girlicek 1-1, Harpring 1-2, Krillenko 0-1, Lopez 0-1, Eisley 0-2), Föuled Out—None, Rebounds—New Jersey 49 (Buford 9), Utah 46 (Bounds) Out—None. Rebounds—New Jersey 49 (Bu ford 9), Utah 46 (Boozer 8). Assists—New Jer-sey 28 (Kidd, Carter 10), Utah 20 (Eisley 5) Total Fouls—New Jersey 21, Utah 22 A—19.911, (19.911).

Nuggets 95, Pacers 88

Three-Point Goals—Denwer 1.2 (Russell -11, DJohnson 0-1), Indiana 9-25 (lackson 4-6, JJones 2-3, FJones 1-2, RJMiller 1-4, Tins-ley 1-7, Bender 0-1, O'Neal 0-1, Gill 0-1), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Denwer 30, Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Denwer 30, Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Denwer 32, Indiana 24, Technicals—Denwer 194, Indiana 24, Technicals—Denwer Defensive Three Second 2, Indiana Defensive Three Second Control of the Contro

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WESTERN "

68 6 **111 156**

Celtics 101, Bulls 97

BOSTON - Pierce 2-12 13-17 18, LaFrentz 5-11 0-0 12, Blount 3-3 2-2 8, Payton 8-15 4-5 23, Allen 0-1 0-0 0, R.Davis 7-16 9-9 24, Banks 1-2 3-6 5, Welsch 2-3 1-2 6, Perkins 0-0 0-0 0, McCarty 1-6 0-0 3, Gugliotta 1-1 0-0 2

Griffin 0-0 0-0 1. Totals 33-81, 21-59 97.

Beston 20 27 23 31—161

Three-Point Goals—Boston 9-18 (Payton Three-Point Goals—Boston 9-18 (Payton 4), Lafrentz 2-4, Welsch 1-1, Pierce 1-2, R.Dawis 1-3, McCarry 1-4), Chicago 10-25 (Gor-1-4, Duhon 1-4, Pargo 0-1, Nocioli -82).

Fouled Out—Hinrich, Nocioli, Rebourds- 1-4, Duhon 1-4, Pargo 0-1, Nocioli -82).

Fouled Out—Hinrich Nocioli, Rebourds- 1-4, Duhon 1-4, Pargo 0-1, Nocioli -82).

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Spurs 93, Hornrets 83
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2-11-1-1, 6-Brown 5-10-2-12, Smith 8-6-0-0
1, Dickae-6-13-4-14, Instrument 9-4-0-0, Instrument 9-4-0-0, Instrument 9-4-0-0, Instrument 9-10-1-2-1-4, Nuchabri 12-0-12, Lampe 3-3 0-0-6, Mary 13-0-1-2-1-4, Nuchabri 12-0-12, Lampe 3-10-0-1, Smith 9-10-0-1, Instrument 9-10-0-1, Instrument

76ers 93, Mavericks 89

Clippers 96, Warriors 85

NBA leaders

Knight, Char. Knight, Char. Marbury, N.Y. James, Clev. Wade, Mia. Iverson, Phil.

1.2 3-6 5, Wessel 1. McCarty 1: 6-0 3, Gugliotta 1-1 0-0 2. 1 Monta 30-70 32-41 101. 30-70 32-41 101. 30-70 32-41 101. 30-70 32-41 101. 30-70 32-41 101. 30-70 32-41 101. 30-70 31-31. 31. Hinthich 2-10 4-6 9, Duhon 2-5 0-2 5, Nocion 2-5 12-5, Chandler 1-31-2-3, Geroff on 11:21-4-6 31, Harrington 0-10 0-0 0, Platkowskii 3-4 0-8, Pargo 1-4 1-2-3, Griffin 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-81 21-35 97. Boston 20 27 21 33-101

Spurs 93, Hornets 83

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T6ers 93, Mavericks 89
PRIMADELPHA - Thomas 6-16 of 12, Koryer 5-6 4-16, Calembert 1, 3-45, Iguodals 41, 10-9, Genet 1, 20-9, Jackson, 312, 72, 11-9, 11-9, 12-9,

Francis keys Magic sweep of Wizards

WASHINGTON - Steve Francis scored 32 points, and the Washington Wizards missed crucial free throws down the stretch, giving the Orlando Magic a 103-97 victory Saturday night and a sweep of back-to-back games between the Southeast Division contenders.

Francis made an off-balance. turnaround 14-footer with 24 seconds left to put the Magic ahead for good. He was 13-for-26 with nine rebounds and seven assists.

After Francis' basket, Brendan Haywood had a chance to tie with 19 seconds remaining when he drew a foul in a fight for a rebound, but he missed both free throws. The Wizards were 12-for-13 from the line in the fourth quarter before Haywood's attempts

The Magic won Friday night's meeting in Orlando 108-101. The sweep pulled the third-place Magic within two games of the second-place Wizards, who had won four straight and 11 of 13 before Friday. Miami leads the Southeast by five games. Grant Hill added 27 points for

the Magic.

Gilbert Arenas led the Wizards with 37 points.

Pistons 91. Knicks 61: In Auburn Hills, Mich., Richard Hamilton scored 18 points and Detroit held slumping New York to its lowest point total of the season. Chauncey Billups and Antonio

McDyess each scored 16 points for the Pistons, who moved into a first-place tie with Cleveland in the Central Division with their third straight win.

Nuggets 95, Pacers 88: Kenyon Martin scored 25 points and had five steals and Denver won its second straight under new coach George Karl. It was the fourth straight loss

for the Pacers and their first at home against the Nuggets in 10 vears Denver won its first game under Karl on Friday night, rally-

ing to win in Milwaukee Grizzlies 84. Hawks 83: Jason Williams scored 23 points and

had eight assists. Mike Miller added 21 points, and Memphis hung on to beat travel-weary At-Tyronn Lue's fallaway 10-foot-

er at the horn for Atlanta bounced off the rim, sending the Hawks to their fourth straight loss. The Hawks were stranded in

Atlanta overnight as icy conditions prevented them from flying out after Friday's loss to Miami The team arrived at the FedExForum with a police escort about 90 minutes before the 8 p.m. CST tip-off— an hour later than originally scheduled. Nets 99, Jazz 82: Vince Carter

made his first five shots on his way to 30 points for the second straight game, and visiting New Jersey won its season-high third straight

Carter was 5-for-5 from



three-point range and scored on a variety of drives to the basket as New Jersey never trailed. It was Carter's second straight 30-point Jason Kidd scored 19 points

and Nenad Krstic added 13 for the Nets, who dressed only nine players on the last game of a five-game road trip. It hardly mattered the way they shot. New Jer-sey made 9 of 13 from beyond the arc and finished the trip 3-2.

Raja Bell was the only Jazz player in double figures with 20 points. The Jazz have lost four of five games despite the return of Andrei Kirilenko, who scored seven points. 76ers 93, Mavericks 89: John

Salmons scored a season-high 19 points and Kyle Korver had 16 as Philadelphia won on the road without Allen Iverson.

Iverson, leading the NBA in scoring at 29 points per game, missed his third straight game due to a strained left rotator cuff. The Sixers compensated with solid defense that limited the Mayericks to 36.7 percent field goal shooting (33-for-90).

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 25 points, nine rebounds and a career-high six blocked shots, but he went only 7-for-25 from the

Celtics 101, Bulls 97: Ricky Davis scored eight fourth-quarter points to spark a late rally, and Gary Payton hit the go-ahead three-pointer for visiting Boston, which snapped Chicago's five-game winning streak.

The surprising Bulls finished January 13-3, two of the losses to the Celtics Chicago rookie Ben Gordon

matched a career high with 31 points, 25 in the second half. But Chicago blew a seven-point fourth-quarter lead and struggled down the stretch after Kirk Hinrich fouled out with 6:29 left.

Spurs 93, Hornets 83: Tony Parker scored 23 points and had 10 assists, and San Antonio improved to 23-1 at home.

The Hornets, sporting the NBA's worst record at 8-35. trailed by only four points after three quarters. But the Spurs opened the fourth with an 8-0 run as New Orleans missed its first 10

Clippers 96, Warriors 85: Elton Brand overcame early foul trouble to score 27 points and the Clippers completed their first season sweep of the visiting War-Sixth-man Zeljko Rebraka

scored 17 of his season-high 19 points in the first half and had a career-high 16 rebounds. Jason Richardson scored 29

points and Mike Dunleavy Jr. added 22 for the Warriors, who have lost five straight and 14 of 15 following a seaso four-game winning streak. season-best

After slow start, Safin rolls to title

BY PAUL ALEXANDER The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Marat Safin just needed a little time to get loosened up against Lleyton Hewitt in the Australian Open final.

And once he overcame a terrible start and put his game on track, Safin proved unstoppable, winning in four sets Sunday night and deflating a crowd hungering for an Australian to win this event.

Safin won his second Grand Slam title, and his first in five years, with a 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory that helped make up for two finals losses in the Russian's last three appearances on Melbourne Park's hard

"It's really difficult to believe it," Safin said, looking at the winner's trophy. "You need to get to your room, sit down and believe this is yours."

Hawitt was trying to become the first

Hewitt was trying to become the first Aussie man to win the Australian Open since Mark Edmondson in 1976, when the event was played on grass at Kooyong.

Looking tight, the fourth-seeded Safin's serve was broken on four backhand errors in his first service game and he won only three points while falling behind 3-0. His biggest weapon, his serve, was erratic and ineffective.

"The first set, you really couldn't call it tennis," Safin said. "I didn't believe I could play that badly."

He chalked it up to nerves.

"I tried to come down," he said. "Then in the second set, I more or less got it together."

After the third-seeded Hewitt hit a fore-

hand out on match point, the outgoing Safin was surprisingly subdued, making only one fist pump.

Safin, who got a good luck cell phone text message from the only other Russian to win a men's Grand Slam title — Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the 1996 French Open and 1999 at Melbourne Park — thanked everyone, including the crowd, "even though 90 percent of you were for Hewitt."

Seventh-seeded Serena Williams downed top-ranked Lindsay Davenport in the women's final Saturday and will rise to second in the new rankings.

Safin won the U.S. Open in 2000 and rose soon afterward to No. 1, then plunged as low as 86th after injuries in 2003. He started his comeback here last year, and avenged his loss in that final to Roger Federer by ending the top-ranked Swiss star's 26-match winning streak in the semifinals.

"You knocked off the guy who's nearly been impossible," said Hewitt, who will rise to No. 2 in the rankings, swapping places with Andy Roddick. "I didn't feel like I played that badly out there. You thoroughly deserve it."

Although he usually feeds off controversy—angering three oponents with his on-court shouts and staredowns on his way to the final — Hewitt unraveled as Saffi raised his game. The sellout crowd urged him on, but Hewitt couldn't feed off their energy this time.

"Some of his hitting from the back of the court late in the third set and then the whole fourth set was pretty incredible," said Hewitt, who began preparing months ago to peak for his home Grand Slam.

"I'll be able to walk out with my head

held high that I've given everything," he said. "But right at the moment, I'm human and I'm disappointed. To come that close, train so hard to put yourself in a position, it's hard to take at the moment."

Hewitt was at the top of his game early, zipping from sideline to sideline while committing only one unforced error — to Safin's 13 — in the 23-minute first set and yielding only two points in his four service games. But as Safin got it together, Hewitt started slipping in the second set, yielding an early break and then another at 2-5 to even the match.

With fist pumps and shouts of "Come on! Come on!" Hewitt saved two break points in the first game of the third set as tensions rose and both men's nerves fraved.

Hewitt screamed "No way!" at the umpire in the next game after an overrule on Safin's shot that he thought was long but TV replays showed was on the line.

Safin had his own fist pump and shout of "Vamos!" — Let's go — after one winner, but Hewitt broke serve when he guessed right on Safin's volley and stroked a backhand winner down the line. Safin sent a forehand long on the next point.

Safin, notorious for breaking rackets, spiked another one, but continued to play with it. He got his thighs massaged during the changeover after Hewitt held serve for a 3-0 lead, then complained to umpire Carlos Ramos in Spanish about another close call in the next game.

Hewitt was called for a foot fault on his first serve at 4-2, 30-40. He won the point after a long rally, then was given a code violation for unsportsmanlike conduct for screaming as he pointed at the line judge



Marat Safin reacts to beating Lleyton Hewitt in the Austalian Open final.

responsible for the call. Safin got back on serve on his third break point with a backhand winner down the line. Safin complained again to Ramos during the changeover.

Hewitt seemed to unravel. He foot-faulted again at 15-30 in his next service game and double-faulted at 30-40. Handed a 5-4 lead, Safin held serve for the set.

This time, it was Hewitt who sought a massage on the thigh muscles that have given him trouble throughout the tournament.

Safin, suddenly looking confident, rallied from a 40-15 deficit as Hewitt served in the first game of the fourth set, finishing off the break with an overhead winner and a backhand crosscourt pass.

It was the only break Safin needed, as he yielded only three points in his five service games in the set.

Paerson wins super-G; 3 Americans in top 10

BY ERICA BULMAN The Associated Press

SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — Sweden's Anja Paerson won the super giant slalom in the Alpine World Ski Championships on Sunday for her first major international title in a speed race.

Julia Mancuso of the United States finished third in an event in which Americans placed three skiers in the top 10.

Paerson, a technical specialist who added the downhill and super-G to her repertoire only last season, tore down the Deborah Compagnoni course in 1 minute, 17.64 seconds.

"This is unbelievable. I really hadn't counted on it," Paerson said. "Before the race, the most I had speculated was a third place. I was so nervous at the start. I gave everything, risked everything.

"This year, I fought so hard and trained so much, and it's finally paying off. That I am now the world champion is unbelievable."

Lucia Recchia of Italy was second in 1:18.09 and Mancuso finished third in 1:18.40. For the United States, Lindsey Kildow was ninth and Kristen Clark 10th.

"Not perfect but I didn't make any mistakes as big as everyone else's," Mancuso said. "I thought it would be grippier, but it was fast and I made some mistakes from that, going a little straighter than I wanted in some places."

Kildow made several costly mistakes, veering exceptionally wide at one gate midway down.

World Cup super-G leader Renate Goetschl lost a pole at the top of the hill and finished 2.29 seconds off the pace. Two other Austrians, Michaela Dorfmeister and Alexandra Meissnitzer, went off course, missing a gate entirely.

"The steep rock slope, where Michaela and Alexandra went off course, was difficult, the curve comes so fast," Paerson said. "I also had problems there."



Julia Mancuso of the United States waves her national flag as she celebrates placing third in the super-G in the Alpine Ski World Championships in Santa Caterina Valfurva, Italy, on Sunday.

Hilde Gerg of Germany also had a difficult run that left her 1.43 back. "Even with an error-free run today, it was

not possible for the later starters," Gerg said. Three Italians finished in the top five, with Nadia Fanchini fourth in 1:18.43 and Isolde

Kostner fifth in 1:18.54.

Paerson won last season's overall World

Cup title largely on her strength in the technical disciplines. She also is the defending slalom and giant slalom World Cup champion. She has won only two World Cup races this season, a slalom in Maribor, Slovenia, this month and the season-opening giant slalom in Soelden, Austria.

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Steady Ogilvie still atop Hope field

The Associated Pres

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Although different parts of Joe Ogilvie's game have come and gone this week, he's managed to hold it together enough to stay in front.

His short game was solid and his tee shots shaky much of the first three rounds of the five-day Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, but things changed Saturday as he shot a sunder 69

At 26-under 262, the front-running Ogilvie maintained a two-shot lead over Peter Lonard of Australia.

"Yesterday I drove it extremely poorly. Today I drove it extremely well," Oglivie said. "Yesterday I hit a lot of good iron shots and putted well. Today I hit no decent iron shots and hit a lot of good putts but didn't give myself a lot of opportunities."

The key to his 69, by three



shots the highest round of his first four days of the tournament, was the way

was the way he mastered the par 5s at La Quin-

ta Country Club.

He rolled in a 12-foot putt for

an eagle after reaching the green with his 3-wood on the 512-yard No. 11, and sank shorter birdie putts on two other par 5s.

Ogilvie, who has appeared relaxed the entire week while either tied for the lead or alone atop the leader board, smiled and waved to the crowd when his eagle nutt dronned.

waved to the crowd when his eagle putt dropped.

He barely missed birdie putts on several other holes.

"I had four or five lip-outs, but they were all from 18 to 25 feet, so I really didn't hit the ball great with my irons, which kind of surprised me," said Ogilvie, looking for his first tour victory.

Lonard also shot a 69 to remain alone in second place. Former British Open champion Justin Leonard was another stroke back after a 64 that left him 23 under. Tim Clark had a 66 and was fourth at 266.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson, who also won the Hope in 2002, had a 68 and was in a group at 268, six shots off the pace.

Ogilvie's best finish on the tour is a second-place tie with Mickelson at New Orleans last year. Ogilvie was leading heading into the final nine holes, but Vijay Singh shot a 29 on the back nine to win.

Asked what he learned from that, Ogilvie said, "That no lead is safe. I'm going to have to go low tomorrow. There's not going to be a whole lot of conservative play

out from me."

Lonard, 37, the winner of a string of titles in Australia but none in America, has eight top-10 finishes on the PGA Tour, including a third place during his rookie season of 2002. Calling the courses used for the

Calling the courses used for the Hope "user-friendly," Lonard laughed about his fourth round at La Quinta, saying, "It wasn't very good today, but I bumbled my way through."

Leonard reeled off six birdies over his final nine holes during the fourth round, including a 30-footer on No. 12, to vault into contention. He has won eight PGA titles, including the 1997 British Open.

Craig Stadler, who won the 1980 Hope for his first tour victory, had moved into contention with a third-round 65, but had a fourth-round 71 to drop back into the pack at 271. Fred Couples also was in that group after a 68.

The tour players were grouped with amateurs for the first four



Joe Ogilvie tips his hat to the gallery on the 18th green during the fourth round of the Bob Hope Classic on Saturday. Ogilvie shot a Junder 69 to maintain his lead.

days of the tournament, with the field cut to the low 70 pros and ties for Sunday's final round at PGA West

Dougherty wins Caltex Masters

SINGAPORE — England's Nick Dougherty won his first PGA European Tour title Sunday, shooting a 5-under 67 for a five-stroke victory in the Caltex Masters.

The 22-year-old Dougherty had an 18-under 270 total on the Laguna National's Masters Course. Scotland's Colin Montgomerie, the 2004 winner, closed with a 70 to for second with Dutchman Maarten Lafeber (69).

Denmark's Thomas Bjorn (72) finished fourth at 11 under in the tournament co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour.

"I'm absolutely delighted. When you're playing with Colin and Thomas, you really don't think it's over until it's over," Dougherty said after his bogey-free round. "Hopefully this is start of many great things to come."

Dougherty took control on the 16th hole, hitting his approach shot to 3 feet to set up a birdie that gave him a three-stroke lead. Montgomerie, a stroke back after the 15th, three-putted for a bogey on No. 16.

"All in all, I think I just about played good enough golf today," Dougherty said.

Irwin leads at Turtle Bay after bogey-free round

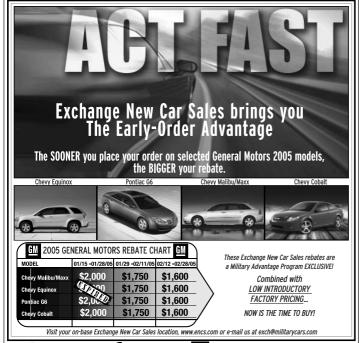
KAHUKU, Hawaii
Four-time defending champion
Hale Irwin shot a boggy-free
6-under 66 to take a two-stroke
lead over Allen Doyle after two
rounds of the Turtle Bay Championship.
The 59-year-old Irwin is trying

to win his fifth straight and sixth overall victory at Turtle Bay, the Champions Tour's first full-field event of the year.

Irwin putted just 23 times and had six birdies in a steady round, moving to 11-under 133.

Doyle had just one bogey in his second round, getting three birdies on the front nine and three on the back for a 4-under 68 and a 9-under 135 total.

Dana Quigley, coming off a win at the MasterCard Championship last week, shot a 68 and was tied for third with Keith Fergus (69) and Morgan three strokes back Don Pooley (67) and Larry Nelson (68) were at 137. Jerry Pate (67), Don Reeses (68), Torm McKnight (68), Dick Mast (69) and Wayne Levi (70) were at 138.



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Illini reach 21-0; Carolina enjoys blowout

The Associated Pres

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Roger Powell Jr. scored 21 points and Deron Williams added 18, leading top-ranked Illinois to an 89-66 victory over Minnesota on Saturday.

The Illini (21-0, 7-0 Big Ten) opened the game with a 10-1 run and stretched their conference winning streak to 17 games, tying a school record set from 1914-16. James Augustine had 15 points and seven rebounds, and Luther Head scored 10

Minnesota (14-6, 4-3) had trouble with the Illini defense from the start. The Golden Gophers were led by Vincent Grier, who scored 17 points.

No. 3 North Carolina 110, Virginia 76: North Carolina ended



five years of frustration at Charlottesville, Va., by blowing out Virginia. Jawad Williams scored 23

points on 8-for-10 shooting, Sean May had 20 and Raymond Felton I for the Tar Heels (17-2, 6-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who won for only the fourth time in the last 11 games against Virginia. North Carolina hadn't won in Charlottesville since Feb. 20, 1999

Carolina led 62-26 at halftime, shot 60 percent for the game and outrebounded the Cavaliers 45-26. J.R Reynolds led Virginia (10-8, 1-7) with 18 points.

No. 5 Wake Forest 94, Miami 82: At Winston-Salem, N.C., Eric Williams had 23 points and 11 rebounds and reserve Trent Strickland added 13 points, helping Wake Forest beat Miami despite getting only eight points from star guard Chris Paul.

Justin Gray finished with 20 points and the Demon Deacons (17-3, 5-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) cruised in the second half to improve to 10-0 at home less than 48 hours after a heartbreaking, overtime loss at Georgia Tech. Jamaal Levy scored 15 points.

Anthony Harris scored 28 points for Miami (13-6, 4-4) and Guillermo Diaz had 21.



Kansas' Aaron Miles, foreground, and J.R. Giddens celebrate the Javhawks' romp over Texas on Saturday.

No. 6 Kansas 90, No. 16 Texas 65: At Lawrence, Kan., Wayne Simien scored 27 points and Kansas handed Rick Barnes his worst Big 12 loss as Longhorns coach

The Longhorns (15-5, 4-3), down to eight scholarship players because of injuries and academic problems, were never in it, falling to 0-5 in Allen Fieldhouse since the Big 12 was formed in 1996.

Texas committed a season-high 20 turnovers against the Jayhawks (16-1, 6-0). No. 7 Kentucky 68, Arkansas

No. 7 Kentucky 68, Arkansas 67: At Fayetteville, Ark., Patrick Sparks hit what proved to be the deciding basket with 24.2 seconds left as Kentucky (16-2, 7-0 Southeastern Conference) held on.

Eric Ferguson countered Sparks' shot with a three-pointer, pulling Arkansas within a point. The Wildcats' Chuck Hayes missed a free throw, and Ferguson got the rebound but missed a three-point try at the buzzer.

Ronnie Brewer had 18 for Arkansas (14-6, 2-5).

No. 8 Boston College 64, Georgetown 49: At Boston, Craig Smith had 20 points and eight rebounds, and unbeaten Boston College shut out Georgetown for a 15-minute span in the first half.

Jared Dudley scored 13 for BC (18-0, 7-0 Big East), which is one shy of the longest winning streak in school history — 19 straight in 1968-69.

Brandon Bowman scored 16

points for Georgetown (13-6, 5-3). The Hoyas, who lost for just the third time in 12 games, haven't beaten a top 10 team since 1996. land, Mich. 75: At East Lansing, Mich., Maurice Ager scored 22 points and Michigan State (14-3) pulled away in the second half in its final tuneup for Tuesday's Big Ten showdown with Illinois.

No. 17 Gonzaga 91, Portland 79: At Spokane, Wash., J.P. Batista had 25 points and 12 rebounds and Gonzaga (15-4, 5-2 West Coast Conference) made 34 of 39 free throws to withstand a second-half rally by Portland (13-9,

Portland (13-9, 2-5), the last WCC team to beat Gonzaga at home, trailed by as many as 14 in the first half but held several leads in the second half before fading. Pool Jeter led the Pilots with 22 points.

No. 18 Wisconsin 76, Penn 8t. 50: At State College, Pa., Kammron Taylor scored 20 points as Wisconsin (144, 5-2 Big Ten) beat Penn State (7-13, 1-6). The Badgers bounced back after a loss to top-ranked Illinois that ended a 38-game home winning streak.

Aaron Johnson had 17 points and 11 rebounds for Penn State.

No. 21 Cincinnati 87, Houston 68: At Cincinnati, James White scored a career-high 25 points, making every type of shot, and added 10 rebounds to lead Cincinnati (17-3, 6-1 Conference USA) over Houston (12-9, 3-4).

Jason Maxiell also had 10 rebounds, 14 points and eight blocks, helping the Bearcats roll to their 10th straight victory over a team they traditionally dominate. Houston is 1-22 against Cincinnati, which leaves next season for the Big East.

No. 23 Iowa 72, Indiana 57: At Iowa City, Pierre Pierce, one of four Iowa starters benched at the beginning of the game for lackluster play, scored 25 points to lead the Hawkeyes (15-5, 3-4 Big Ten) past Indiana (9-9, 4-3).

LSU 69, No. 24 Mississippi St. 62: At Baton Rouge, La, Brandon Bass had 26 points and 11 rebounds as LSU (11-6, 4-2 SEC) handled Mississippi State (16-5, 4-3) and star Lawrence Roberts, who was limited to 15

USA) routed Tulane (8-11, 2-6). The Cardinals won their seventh straight game and 12th in the last 13. Louisville has won by an average of 32.9 points during its winning streak. lowa St. 74, No. 13 Oklahoma

No. 12 Louisville 105, Tulane

69: At New Orleans, Francisco Garcia had 21 points to lead six

double-figure scorers as the Car-

dinals (18-3, 6-2 Conference

66: At Ames, Iowa, Curtis Stinson scored 23 points and Iowa State (9-8, 1-5 Big 12) relied on its short-range game to end a 10-game winning streak by Oklahoma (16-3, 5-1). Jared Homan (16-4), Jared Homan with the control of the state of th

Taj Gray led Oklahoma with 21 points.

Air Force wins 23rd straight home game

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.

— Jacob Burtschi scored 16
points and Air Force beat San
Diego State 62-50 on Saturday

night, the Falcons' 23rd straight victory at home. Air Force (13-7, 4-1 Mountain West) moved into sole possession of second place in the conference

by extending the nation's second-longest home winning streak. The Falcons started cold from three-point range and trailed by a point at the half.

Air Force's Nick Welch, who finished with 10 points, made a layup with 13:48 left in the game to start a 10-1 run for the Falcons. A three-pointer by Tim Keller put Air Force up 41-30 with 10:10 left to play. A three-pointer by Marc

Holum with 9:14 to play started another run that ended with a three-pointer by Matt McCraw at 2:41 that gave Air Force a 54-37 advantage over the Aztecs (9-9, 3-2)

Keller finished with 12 points and McCraw 11. Burtschi also contributed on defense with five defensive rebounds and four steals.

The Falcons missed 11 of 15 three-pointers in the first half and trailed by a point at halftime, but hit six of 11 from long range after intermission while pulling away.



Air Force's Nick Welch goes up for a shot during Saturday's 62-50 win over San Diego State.





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Apparently no deficit too big for Pitt

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH - Syracuse couldn't have asked for a better start as it tried to be come the first visiting team to win in successive seasons in Pitt's new arena. The Orange's biggest mistake was letting the game get away long before the finish

Carl Krauser and Chevon Troutman led Pittsburgh's second consecutive comeback from a 17-point deficit against a ranked op ponent, withstanding long scoreless stretches to drive the No. 20 Panthers to a 76-69 victory over fourth-ranked Syracuse on Saturday night.

Pittsburgh, rallying much as it did the previous Saturday in beating then-No. 16 Connecticut 76-66, took command by holding Syracuse scoreless for 61/2 minutes in a 13-0 run midway through the second half

The Orange (20-2, 7-1 Big East) opened a 22-5 lead by holding Pitt to two field goals in the first 10 minutes. Syracuse ended Pitt's 40-game home winning streak last season by becoming the first visiting team to win in the Petersen Events Center, which opened for the 2002-03 season.

"It didn't feel like we were down 17," Pit-

shots, and we knew that if we played as well as we could, it wouldn't be a problem coming back. It wasn't anything to get worried about.

Apparently not. Krauser got all of his 19 points in the second half after not scoring for nearly 23 minutes and Troutman, held scoreless for the first 14 1/2 minutes, had 18 points and nine rebounds for Pitt (14-3, 4-2). The Panthers outrebounded Syracuse 39,28

Keith Benjamin, a seldom-used freshman guard who had scored only two points in Pitt's previous 13 games, keyed the comeback by coming off the bench for 10 points - as many as he had all season.

"It's been a long wait to go out there and show what I could do," said Benjamin, who was slowed earlier by a foot injury. "Coach (Jamie Dixon) gave me an opportunity and I wanted to bring some energy to the team "

Gerry McNamara scored 26 points and Hakim Warrick had 25, but no other Syracuse player scored more than four as the Orange's 13-game winning streak ended McNamara went 14 minutes without a bas-

three late three-pointers.

"We can't win with only two guys scor-ing — we need better balance," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "People are going to do what they can to take Gerry and Hakim away, and we need our other guys in those situations. Two guys are not going to win a game in this league.

Boeheim felt the game swung when the Panthers went into a 2-3 zone in the second half - Syracuse's preferred defense - but the Orange still couldn't get open shots

We actually wanted them to play the zone, but they made shots and we couldn't," Boeheim said. "Our failure to attack the zone was our biggest shortcom-

Pitt was 13-for-26 in the second half to Syracuse's 10-for-28.

McNamara was in double figures with 10 points before Pitt made its second field goal of the game, but Benjamin came off the bench to hit two quick baskets and start the Panthers on a 22-9 run that cut Syracuse's lead to 31-27.

Pitt tied it for the first time at 38 on Krauser's second three-pointer in two pos-sessions before Syracuse answered with a quick 6-0 run for a 44-38 lead.

throws and Aaron Gray's tap-in started a 13-0 run that put Pitt up by seven. At that point, Pitt had outscored Syracuse 46-22

since trailing by 17 Dixon went to Benjamin mostly out of desperation after freshman guard Ronald Ramon quickly drew three fouls and starting guard Antonio Graves had trouble getting open shots. Graves failed to score in

nine minutes. "We had a lot of sophomores and freshmen out there and guys who hadn't played a lot, but they played like they had been there in those situations," Dixon said.

The Panthers had lost three of five, including successive home games to Bucknell and Georgetown, before beating Con-Syracuse. The turnaround necticut and began when Krauser began cutting down on his turnovers and quit forcing shots.

"In the first half I was looking for my teammates and letting the game come to me." Krauser said. "In the second half, I felt a sense of urgency to get things going.

The Orange, the highest-ranked opponent to play at the Petersen Center, were playing their first ranked opponent since losing to then-No. 5 Oklahoma State 74-60 on Dec. 7

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Kelati's threes lift Cougars over Cats

BY BOB BAUM The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. - Four of the Washington State players on the court Saturday were not born the last time the Cougars beat Arizona. Two others were barely in dia-

So Washington State's 70-63 stunner over the 11th-ranked Wildcats — at McKale Center, no

less - was downright historic The Cougars ended a 38-game losing streak to coach Lute Olson's Arizona team.

'I can't remember the last time I was this happy," said Thomas Kelati, who sank a career-high seven three-pointers and matched his career best with 27 points. "I returned to that locker room, coach was in tears, players were in tears. This feels good." Kelati's final three-pointer with

50.4 seconds to play put Washing ton State ahead for good at 66-63.
He then sealed the victory by making two free throws with 32.1 seconds left.

"The thing I learned when I went to Washington State is there are too many negative streaks, said Dick Bennett, the ex-Wiscon-sin coach in his second season with the Cougars. "Every time you play you are facing one." The Cougars erased a number

of them on Saturday.
Washington State (9-9, 4-5
Pac-10) last beat the Wildcats on Jan. 30, 1986, 65-63 in overtime in Pullman. Washington State broke a 20-game losing streak in Tucson and defeated a ranked opponent

and defeated a ranked opposition for the first time in 49 tries. It was only Washington State's fifth road victory over a ranked team and first in 27 games. Arizona was the highest-rated opponent to fall among those five.

The Wildcats looked as if they might pull it out after a steal led to Mustafa Shakur's breakaway stuff that tied it at 63 with 1:12 remaining. But the Cougars scored

the last seven points of the game. Kelati, 7-for-9 from three-point range, sank his final three to put Washington State up for good. After Salim Stoudamire missed a three-pointer, Kelati was fouled and made the two free throws to seal Washington State's upset.

Arizona (17-4, 7-2) came out flat for the noon tipoff after an intense 91-82 victory over No. 10 Washington on Thursday night. That victory had put the Wildcats alone in first place in the Pac-10, but Washington State opened the way for Washington to reclaim a share of lead on Sunday at Arizo-

"Our hearts were not in it," Arizona center Channing Frye said. 'We need to go back and focus in practice and understand where we are, and where we want to

Shakur led Arizona with 12 points. Ivan Radinovic had 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Frye scored 11 but had only two rebounds

Stoudamire - among the top shooters in the country over the last month — was 4-for-14 shooting, 0-for-5 from three-point range. He scored 11. Hassan Adams scored 10.

Olson was especially upset with his experienced players

"The veterans should know bet-ter," he said. "They should know that if you've got Arizona on your jersey, Washington State going to come out and play its best game. They outplayed us, they outhustled us."

Freshmen Derek Low and Robbie Cowgill - among those not born the last time the Cougars beat Arizona — had season highs of 13 and 12 points, respectively. Low was 4-for-4 on three-point-

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SPORTS



Air Force beats San Diego St. to extend home win streak. Page 34

icked awesome

Boston sports fans finally have something to brag about in more than one sport

BY SYLVIA LEE WINGFIELD The Associated Press

BOSTON - It's time for Boston sports fans to gloat for a change.

Heck, the Boston Red Sox finally conquered the New York Yankees and then won a World Series. Now the New England Patriots are try-

ing to win their third Super Bowl in four years. "It doesn't get any better, it really doesn't," said novelist Stewart O'Nan, who collaborated with his friend and fellow Red Sox fan, horror writer Stephen King, on "Faithful," a diary of

the 2004 Red Sox season. Last year began with the Patriots winning the Super Bowl. Then from spring through summer, fans watched as the

They'd grown accustomed to the usual swan dive after the All-Star break. But this time the team went on a tear. Could it actually happen? Could this be "the year" for which generations of die-hard fans had pined? Fall usually brought heartbreak to Boston baseball fans. This time, it brought unmeasurable joy. The Sox came back from a 3-0 hole in the

ALCS to win four straight against the hated Yankees, then swept St. Louis in four games to win the title, their first in 86 years.

It's all made for a fun year for the city's long-suffering fans.

Everybody's ecstatic," said Adam Herzlich, a Boston bartender holding off the January chill on Thursday with a Patriots watch can

"People who weren't Pats fans a few years ago are now. My mother's even watching the playoffs. She hasn't watched that much football since she watched me play," at Brookline High School, he said.

The Boston College men's basketball team is one of only two undefeated college teams in the country, and is now ranked No. 8 in The Associated Press rankings. The BC women's basketball team is also in the AP Top 25, and the men's hockey team is

SEE BOSTON ON PAGE 30



AP nhotos

Above: Boston College's Craig Smith reacts as he scores against Georgetown in the first half Saturday. BC is ranked No. 8 in The Associated Press poll and is one of only two undefeated men's teams in the country, Left: The Boston Red Sox ended decades of misery for their fans by winning their first World Series in 86 years.



Red Sox rebounded from

occasional losing streaks



Russia's Safin earns second Slam title with win over crowd favorite Hewitt in Australian Open

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Francis scores 32 points to help lead Magic to sweep of Wizards

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Ogilvie hangs on to two-stroke edge heading into final round of Hope Classic

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